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*The Battle of
Coney Island;*

OR,

FREE TRADE OVERTHROWN.



THE
BATTLE OF CONEY ISLAND;

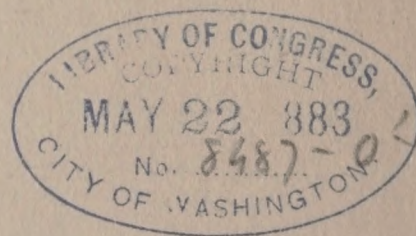
OR,

Free Trade Overthrown.

A SCRAP OF HISTORY WRITTEN IN 1900.

35
BY
AN EYE WITNESS.

Wm. Elliott Smith Baker.



PHILADELPHIA:
J. A. WAGENSELLER, PUBLISHER,
23 NORTH SIXTH STREET.

1883.

PZ 3
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DEDICATION.

The writer of this Imaginary History respectfully

DEDICATES

IT TO

CAPITAL AND LABOR,

TWIN BROTHERS,

Who are the source of political power, and who, when working together harmoniously, can shape the legislation and destiny of the Great Republic: with the earnest hope that they will give such attention to the facts herein recited, that the imagination indulged in may never become reality, and yet with the persuasion that, unless American citizens take increased interest in political affairs, these freaks of fancy may become records of history.

THE
BATTLE OF CONEY ISLAND;
OR,
FREE TRADE OVERTHROWN.

CHAPTER I.

THIS History of the United States would be imperfect did we fail to record the calamities which overtook the Nation in the first quarter of its second century. Let him who would not read of the sudden overthrow of the business of the country when in the meridian of its prosperity, by unwise Congressional enactments; nor be reminded of the days, bitter to every patriot heart, when, as the result of similar legislation, coupled with indifference to the provisions of the Constitution, the venerated standard of the Nation was trailed in the dust beneath the feet of a foreign foe, pass over these chapters.

If he would, however, learn from history, and be convinced that the pure Democracy of the Fathers is the

consummation of wisdom; that a Government established by the people, of the people, and for the people, must eventuate in the highest development of civil and religious liberty, and be equal to any and every emergency that could possibly arise, let him suppress his blushes of shame and read these pages, and be profited thereby. He will find that the *form of Government* was not imperfect; but its improper administration, made possible only by the apathy of the people to political affairs during their struggles to acquire wealth, led to a fulsome pride and fatal lethargy, which ended in humiliation and disaster.

The policy of the founders of the American Union had been to encourage the development of the mineral resources of the country, and of ship-building, as well as the erection of manufacturing establishments, surrounded by an agricultural region, which, with coastwise, oceanic and internal commerce, could not fail to be mutually beneficial. This was subversive of the British policy, which a few Americans of small calibre advocated, and which would allow foreigners to carry our cotton and fuel and ores and lumber to England, and return to us, with the profits of manufacture and transport added thereto, the cloth and metal and manufactured articles, all in British ships; and thus reduce this country, as the same policy reduced Ireland, to a vast agricultural region

depending upon the crops, and bordering on starvation whenever they failed.

No less an authority than a former President, Andrew Jackson, had advised his countrymen, in words of gold, thus: "Build your factories and workshops close to your plantations and farms, and you will confer inestimable blessings on the whole American people." So far as it lay in their power, the people, by electing to Congress men who favored Protection to home industry, had, for more than two decades previous to the events recorded in this history, succeeded in obtaining from the Government a duty on the minerals which filled our hillsides in many States, and on manufactured articles and materials which could readily be produced in the country, sufficient to equalize the difference in the cost of labor between America and foreign countries. Being not "a tariff for revenue" only, but a moderate one, it developed a diversity of occupations for American artizans at high wages; besides, it produced a handsome surplus, above all Governmental requirements, with which to reduce the indebtedness incurred in the recent Mormon and whiskey revolt, just as the same American policy had cancelled a former enormous National debt.

The working people of America received two, three, and in some cases four times the wages paid in foreign countries for the same work, and the result showed itself

in millions of intelligent and skillful men and women, better educated, housed, clothed and fed than any in the world; their employment being adapted to their capabilities, and who are the strength and backbone of the Nation, the glory of the Great Republic.

In strong contrast to this was the condition of the working classes of Europe, who just received enough pay to exist, with no chance of promotion or improvement; a few weeks of sickness or enforced idleness placing them upon the paupers' roll. The foreign policy tended to exalt the ruling classes by depressing labor, while the American policy was and is to elevate the working men by liberal wages and by the ballot, and thus develop their manliness and self respect. Daniel Webster said that at the formation of the Federal Constitution the leading motive was to levy a duty on imports for the protection of American labor and industry.

It was when the working people were thoroughly imbued with the principle of Protection, and after its practical results had exalted them to a plane never before attained by artizans in any age or country, that an unfortunate train of events led to the election of a Congress who passed a tariff bill which overthrew the business interests of the Nation and the happiness of the people, and swept away the accumulations of years; besides hu-

miliating the Government and nearly bankrupting the National Treasury.

The people were prosperous, trade in all departments was profitable, wages were liberal, wealth was increasing and capital often spent it in munificent public benefactions, and rapid progress was being made in all departments of knowledge. These conditions were not favorable to the cultivation of that vigilance which is the price of liberty. The supineness of the masses to politics was marked, and a Statesman was not far astray in asserting that "the beer shops and liquor saloons ruled the country;" because it was there where the pot-house politicians fixed up the nominations for Congressmen and other important offices, the citizens generally taking but little interest in the primary elections.

The party in power (after a magnificent record, which any political organization might envy) having been largely increased in numbers by office seekers from the lower strata in society, became demoralized; and incompetency, ignorance, fraud, speculation, defalcation, among Government officials, were matters of frequent occurrence. Efforts to correct this evil, to purify the ballot and improve the civil service were opposed by bolder demonstrations, inspired by the vanity and ambition of certain party leaders, and open revolt naturally followed.

Finally, the Head of the Nation, a man who towered

above the average, and who was venerated by the people for his purity and uprightness, while quietly advocating reforms in Government Departments, was smitten down by an assassin, who avowed that his object was to destroy all such opposition. Many supporters of the new Administration, to the sorrow and disappointment of millions, seemed to work in opposition to the principles and counsels of the fallen Chieftain. This caused a murmur of dissent from every township in the land to increase until it roared like thunder, and at the elections soon following, the ballots of the citizens of the Republic flew like hail in a direction opposite to that of the murderer's bullet. A quiet revolution was effected, irrespective of political preferences, and the dominant party was temporarily overthrown; but unfortunately for the interests of the people, a number of the Congressmen and Legislators elected, while sound enough upon the Reform question, were lifelong advocates of the insidious chimera of Free Trade, and openly advocated that policy as the one to relieve the Country from the "oppression" of the so-called "grasping manufacturers, monopolizing corporations, pampered bankers and bloated bondholders."

In face of solemn protests and weighty arguments, Congress passed a Bill materially reducing the duty on imports—a reduction much more than the difference in the rates of wages paid in the Old World and the New;

so that capital and labor both suffered, and immediately. In vain were the words of Henry Clay quoted, that the seven years of Free Trade prior to 1824 were years of the greatest depression, while the seven years following the Protective Tariff of 1824 was a season of prosperity. Futile were the efforts to show from the public speeches of the Fathers of the Republic—Washington, Jefferson, Franklin, Calhoun, and other illustrious names—that they all favored Protection to our home industries and labor; and useless seemed it to repeat the views of other minds, that Free Trade invariably involved individual struggle and hardship; weakness in war, poverty in peace.

English history was appealed to, showing how Parliament had protected their rising industries. To help the woolen trade, a law was actually passed that all the dead should be buried in woolens! Foreign goods were excluded, and cost of product reduced by enforcing arbitrary laws against labor: forbidding the organization of Trade Unions prior to 1824; and for hundreds of years previously, laws were enforced entirely in the interests of employers to keep down wages. Any subsequent improvement in British labor can be traced to American influence.

To-day American whiskey and tobacco are heavily taxed by Britain, whose policy seems to be whatever best promotes the selfish interests of the princely manufacturers, and gives them control of the world's business.

CHAPTER II.

CONGRESS passed this Bill, in spite of the most glaring figures and facts, it being clearly proved that Protection had made our Country, had built our railroads, greatly reducing the cost of construction and transportation, had established steamship lines, endowed colleges, schools and churches, started manufactures, and had developed our iron, coal, copper and other mines, built up our cities, lined our seacoasts with light houses, beautified our towns with magnificent Public buildings, cancelled our enormous National debt. Under Protection's benign influences, the population had increased to sixty millions, immigrants flocked to our shores at the rate of a million a year, and unheard-of crops of cotton and grain were harvested, giving us cheap bread, and enabling us to export largely more than we imported, causing gold to flow into the country. Congress, moreover, ignored the undeniable truth, that Protection to home industry invariably reduces the cost and improves the quality of any article, by superior machinery and workmanship and competition, while maintaining the dignity of labor ; but

these would-be Congressional Statesmen hungered and thirsted for goods of foreign make, and received their surfeit of them before the year rolled around.

They blundered on the tariff question, just as they had previously blundered on the shipping question, and as their policy of enforcing unjust laws against American shipping and withholding protection and encouragement from it had driven American steamers and ships engaged in the foreign trade from the ocean, so their mistake of reducing the tariff promised to destroy our manufactures, our coasting and inland trade, and cripple our agriculture. So argued and urged the wisest men in the country; but their wisdom and experience were taken for naught. Ephraim seemed joined to his idols.

British manufacturers sent to this country their agents, their samples, their pamphlets and their gold, to help forward, by questionable means, the Free Trade movement, and assist in the overthrow of the supremacy and prosperity of American labor and capital, and narrow-minded and ignorant Congressmen, of all parties, theorists who were destitute of practical knowledge of business, cried, amen! In both Houses of Congress a majority was secured, and the Bill became the law of the land, but never the will of the *sovereign people who nominate and elect Congressmen, and practically rule the Nation.*

In that age of electricity and steam, business was sensitive, and fluctuations were rapid and frequent; changes in price being anticipated. The owners of the overstocked warehouses and iron yards of Britain at once prepared to pour their contents upon our shores, at prices below the current cost in America based upon American wages; hence business was at once prostrated, and, except to finish orders already accepted, the mills of the United States prepared to suspend operations until matters could be adjusted upon a different footing, or, more plainly, *until wages could be correspondingly reduced*. That change might require years to effect, but a continuance of production, under existing circumstances, with no market for products, was certain to end in ruin, especially with men of moderate resources.

One year of Free Trade in the United States for capital! What a plunge from affluence to poverty, from financial strength to bankruptcy, from liberal benevolence to rigid economy, from comfort to misery. One year of idleness for America's toiling millions, after their season of prosperity and happiness, of enterprise and manly independence! Who can count the cost, who appreciate, or even enumerate the sufferings, struggles, sorrow, privation, despair, death of that eventful period; the saddest year ever witnessed in the Union! But we can only record

the experiences of the time for the benefit of their more fortunate successors.

We have stated that the reductions in the duty on imports were radical and severe; reducing the cost of the imported goods, temporarily, below the cost of home productions. The smaller manufacturers were not in financial condition to stop entirely, and tried to weather the tempest until the day of deliverance arrived, but in a few months they succumbed; and the Sheriff, to satisfy pressing creditors, sold the mills and contents, scattering the working people, and throwing them upon the charities of a selfish world. The same scenes were being enacted in every part of the country and with all branches of business, because they were mutually dependent, and a blow at one branch, injured all the others.

When those magnificent establishments, the Bessemer steel and iron mills and furnaces (children of Protection) closed their doors, that decreased ore and coal mining and greatly reduced railroad and ship tonnage, and interfered with agriculture. That in time stopped the foundries, machine shops, car works and ship yards, and it became apparent that the business interests involved in iron, coal, railroads and steamships, constituted a large part of the Nation's trade, and exerted a powerful influence upon agriculture and all other branches. When iron and coal are prosperous, almost everything is active

and successful; when they are stagnant, all branches are unprofitable. But when in addition to these, the woolen, cotton, carpet, glass and other mills were compelled to stop their machinery and put out their fires, the condition of affairs was appalling. The working men and women were overwhelmed with the magnitude of the disaster when realizing it fully; while their employers could only reduce their expenses of living to the minimum, and try to keep together the remnants of their impaired capital.

The railroad, steamship, manufacturing and other corporations could not pay dividends, as they had not one-third the usual income, and had to dismiss thousands of employes. The banks and bankers could find but little safe paper to discount and made no profits, as their deposits were withdrawn. Persons who had lived upon handsome dividends and rentals received but one-third the usual returns, and were forced to reduce expenses and discharge clerks and servants. Money sought investment at two per cent. a year, but found few takers with sound collaterals, while ordinary business paper flooded the market without finding buyers, at three per cent. a month. Fear and panic and its effects were visible everywhere, especially at the financial centres. The comfortable homes of workmen, secured after years of toil, were sacrificed by the Sheriff to pay interest and

greatly increased taxes. The auction houses were filled with pianos, pictures and luxuries sent there for sale at any price, to meet the necessities of the hour.

Real estate declined, stores were closed, and in every street, in every village, town and city, were seen vacant houses, with the ominous: "To Let" upon them; the former happy inmates having abandoned their dwellings and doubled up with others in an improvised home. Building operations were entirely suspended, throwing out of employment thousands of mechanics. The alms-houses, asylums and similar institutions were full. Honest and industrious labor offered its services at half the former pay, but capital was paralyzed, and lacked encouragement to move forward.

The men who had made the best watches, the best locomotives, the best printing presses, the best mowers and reapers, the best sewing machines, firearms, carriages, pumps, pianos, and the best machinery that the world can produce, vainly sought work as day laborers; as Free Trade invariably destroys that source of happiness in a free people: a diversity of occupations, and brings the genius, the inventor, the author, the skilled artisan, down to the common level. Lower wages follow a lower tariff, and if the Free Trade principle is correct, why not abolish all duties, open the flood-gates and get cheap labor and compete for the trade of the

world? The Chinese would soon fill our factories and workshops and other places of labor to the exclusion of American mechanics.

The labor unions, lodges and benevolent societies for aiding the sick and unfortunate, were overwhelmed with applicants, and nearly all failed to respond to the continuous cry for succor. The brothals and drinking saloons and low theatres were patronized as usual, the prisons were overflowing, and vice and crime were rampant. Idleness invariably begets crime.

It is true that merchandise could have been imported at a lower cost than formerly was paid for American goods, but there was no money with which to buy, and no active industries to justify consumption. To pay for these imports (besides draining the country of gold), flour, grain and provisions had to be exported, and the sharp demand from abroad increased the price of food at home, at a time when the people were earning nothing. There was grain by the cargo and hungry people to eat it, but the improvident part of the population (who are generally in the majority,) found themselves without homes, or food, or money, while the thrifty and economical were sacrificing their lifelong accumulations to frugally maintain themselves in enforced idleness, or in assisting their less fortunate relatives.

In vain did Free Traders give assurance that the lower

prices of all imported articles would stimulate business, and the decreased wages thereafter to be paid in America would ensure a lower cost of goods, and establish an export trade for our products. That theory could only be correct when, owing to the prostration of manufactures, one half of the workmen, to avoid starvation, were driven to tilling the soil, thereby cheapening bread, and the other half were degraded to mere brainless machines, without ambition or independence, earning a sparse living by incessant toil. The theory was met by actual facts—facts fully understood by everybody except Congressmen.

Take pig iron, for instance. It was costing then in the United States about \$20 a ton, fully four-fifths of which cost was labor, and it yielded but a small profit to the manufacturer. Owing to the extent of our domain (some of our single States being larger than the entire kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland), the ores and the fuel to melt them were sometimes separated a thousand miles, and the iron works were also that far from the seaboard; whereas in Britain the materials were closer together, and the mills not one hundred miles from the sea, thus avoiding the heavy freight charges incident to American business; hence in Britain pig iron was costing about \$11 a ton, owing to cheaper labor and interest, and the freight from Britain to America

was less than from Harrisburg to Albany. As a natural consequence, our wharves were soon groaning under foreign pig iron. Free Traders said to the mills and foundries: "Why don't you buy it and start your works?" But the rail and bar iron mills, plate and sheet mills had no orders, and would not roll their products without prospects of sale, especially at the high cost of home labor. Lower wages became a necessity.

The railroads and coasting and inland steamers were not carrying one-third their usual tonnage, because of the paralysis of the iron and coal business, and wanted no rails, engines, cars, or machinery—in fact, whole miles of empty railroad cars were rotting on the sidings, and the piers of our seaports were lined with idle ships and steamers decaying and rusting. The foundries found their customers had "shut down," and were not needing any pipes or castings. The same process applied to every other branch of trade, and the overthrow of American industry was complete.

To show what even a partial prostration of American industries means, and to place Free Trade and Protection side by side, we will give the amount of product of two American industries under both policies. From 1846 to 1857, years of low tariff, the annual output of pig iron in the United States averaged 800,000 tons. In 1882, after twenty years of Protection, the product was 4,623,-

000 tons! In 1860 we were mining coal at the rate of 13,000,000 tons a year, while in 1882 our mines poured out 65,000,000 tons! What benefit the American people received from this enormous tonnage and its transportation, can best be answered by asking the questions:—Who made the profit and received the wages for this work? Had it been done abroad, who then would have received the advantage?

One argument in favor of a reduction in the tariff had been that the National revenue was excessive, and a heavy surplus was dangerous to the virtue of the Government employés. That might apply to politicians in office, and should have suggested a change of clerks, and at best it was a gross reflection upon thousands of other honest employés. The Treasury Department, while remembering the hundreds of millions appropriated for pensions, rivers, harbors, and other purposes outside of the ordinary expenses of the Government, fully calculated that the income would be sufficient for all contingencies. But when sixty millions of intelligent people—who were generous providers and liberal spenders in ordinary times—suddenly found themselves with greatly reduced incomes, the consumption of necessities was materially reduced, and the use of luxuries was suspended almost entirely, hence, while foreign goods of every description poured into every port on our seacoast for

the first six months of the year, the people had not the ability to purchase.

In some cities, societies and clubs were formed pledging members against wearing or using imported articles where they took the place of American goods. The result was that during the second six months of Free Trade, the American markets were glutted with foreign goods, prices declined without finding buyers, and shipments ceased, and the Government Custom collectors found the revenue decreasing to an alarming extent; and the recently overflowing treasury soon collapsed.

To preserve the integrity of the Nation was the first thought of the Executive, and the income having ceased, the quickest way to accomplish it was to stop the lavish expenditures—and the decree soon went forth to cease paying the pensions, to close the Navy Yards, and reduce the garrisons in the forts, to stop work on all Public buildings in the United States, to further reduce the Army and Navy, and to close the Life Saving Stations along our dangerous seacoast, to abolish the Signal Service, and discharge officials in other positions wherever their services could be dispensed with, especially in the Custom Houses and Revenue Service. This prompt action did not save the Government from embarrassment, as a temporary loan was negotiated; but it increased by thou-

sands the already swollen ranks of people without employment, and our larger cities and towns were crowded with men and women with nothing to do but to parade the streets and decry Free Trade and its authors, while from the more devout the cry went up: "How long, O Lord, how long?"

CHAPTER III.

THE year passed, a year of misery and privation, the results of the foulest page on the annals of American legislation. Heretofore the people had borne their sufferings without any violent demonstrations, except in three instances where hungry women and children, marched through the streets of manufacturing towns and demanded work or bread. A crisis was approaching as Congress would soon assemble; and to demand a repeal of the obnoxious laws, a restoration of the tariff and a resumption of work by our industries was the uppermost thought in every unbiased mind.

In a Western city certain Communists and Nihilists, who had recently come from Europe, called a meeting to discuss the impoverished condition of the people, and the hall was filled, especially with the lower grade of foreigners, many of them hungry men and women. The speaker denounced the Government in violent, inflammatory language, and exhorted his hearers to "Break open the banks and warehouses, take the money and goods and put the monopolists to repairing the public roads—

that all men were equal, and the rich should be forced to divide with the poor, or have their property burnt;" all which was language not new or unusual from similar sources, although public safety demanded its suppression.

While one demagogue was thus poisoning the minds of his ignorant hearers, several trains of Eastern bound grain and provision cars arrived from the West, and stopped at the adjoining station for fuel and water. The speaker raised his voice to a scream and continued: "While the toiling millions of America are starving, whole trains of provisions are being carried by rail to the seaboard daily for export on the foreign steamers, to pay for imported articles." Then pointing with excited gesticulations towards the arriving trains, and with fire flashing from his eyes, the speaker shouted: "Men and women, behold the bread and meat which you are hungering for. It goes by ship-loads to feed the paupers of Europe, while you and your children are starving. I *command* you, freemen, to open those cars and live, or crawl like slaves to your hovels and die!"

With one bound the motley crowd of infuriated people rushed towards the cars and began to break them open, and distribute the contents: flour, hams, cheese, &c., to the people. As other trains were constantly arriving, they too were attacked by the excited crowd. The railroad officials telegraphed to detain incoming

trains, but found the wires had been severed. They then gathered into an empty car for consultation, and revolvers were distributed to them, and they determined to protect the railroad property. The police failed to quiet the increasing storm or disperse the rioters, and as further outrages were attempted, the railroad officials, on a given signal, unhappily fired their pistols into the crowd, killing and wounding a score of men and women, including several who were innocent and harmless spectators. This aroused the evil passions of the crowd to a pitch which placed them beyond control, and the number increased to several thousand. Bridges were demolished, depots burned, the rails torn up. The engines were run together in groups and destroyed by burning coal oil beneath them.

In vain did the Mayor of this Western city read the riot act and command them to disperse; he was laughed at and his authority despised. The Governor was appealed to, and after hours had passed, he, in turn applied to the General Government for troops to suppress the rioters, but neither the State nor the National Government had a regiment of soldiers which could be spared from other duties, nor hastily mustered into service. In the meanwhile, night had come on, and one of the trains having been found to contain raw whiskey, the men, who had satisfied their hunger with raw pork and ham,

now drank liberally of the liquor, which added to their fury, and in their drunkenness they entered dwellings and drove the inmates into the streets, destroyed churches and public buildings, adjacent to the depot, until the glaring red of the sky showed for miles around that the City of —— was being destroyed.

There being no organization of conspirators nor revolutionary designs, the tumult died out with the returning light of morning, and the soberness of the participants, leaving the County or State to pay for the millions of damage done during the disturbance.

American citizens are a law abiding people, and throughout the length and breadth of the land these proceedings were condemned and the rioters denounced, and as the terrible news was telegraphed far and wide, thousands of workingmen and other citizens offered their services to suppress the riot and uphold the law ful authorities; but the demonstration being one of passion, had died a natural death. The United States Government was impotent to carry out that provision of the Constitution which required it to "suppress insurrections," and "to protect each State against invasion or domestic violence."

Meetings were held, however, in every city, at which Free Trade was proclaimed as the ruin of the Nation, and demanding of Congress its abolition immediately, and

the restoration of that Protection which had brought the country up to its former greatness and glory.

Congress hesitated for months, and only succumbed to the pressure from their constituents, when the leading business men from nearly every Congressional District in the Union went to Washington, and first, by a public meeting, which in magnitude and dignity was unprecedented in the history of the Country, and afterwards by a personal application to their different Senators and Representatives, fortified by Petitions from their employés, finally secured the annulling of the obnoxious Free Trade Bill, and the release of the American people from poverty.

This Nation being a representative Democracy, with the people as the source of power, there was nothing left for Congress to do upon this question; but the succeeding elections placed in authority a President and a Congress who were pledged to "Protection to Home Industries," that being the issue upon which the canvass was conducted. With both Tariff men and Free Traders in the two leading political parties of the Country, the Protectionists rallied to the support of the renovated and regenerated party which had always favored a tariff in theory, but the leading plank of whose National Platform was now stamped with Protection to American industry and labor in unmistakable characters. The

working people of America had learned from practical experience that *Protection* meant prosperity and liberal wages, and that *Free Trade* produced poverty and starvation wages, and voted accordingly. Hence that party at the polls swept the Country from Lake to Gulf, from Sea to Sea.

A few years of industry and activity, under the restored tariff, again caused business to flow into its usual channels, and the people struggled manfully and patiently to retrieve the losses of the darkest year in American history.

CHAPTER IV.

THE question of Protection to our manufactures was thus permanently settled in the United States, but there still were laws upon the Statute Book, passed by Congress years previously, the practical operation of which had driven American ships engaged in the foreign trade from the ocean, and prostrated that branch of business; throwing it into the hands of foreigners. The process was slower than that which overtook the manufacturers, when the Free Trade Act was passed, but the result was no less certain in effecting the destruction of the American merchant marine.

A National Navy is surely a necessary adjunct of a country whose dominions have an ocean frontage of thousands of miles, as a partial protection to its defenceless seaports against the powerful armaments of surrounding nations, and as a terror to pirates and marauders at sea; giving assurance of security at home, and commanding respect abroad. And an Army seems essential. Not an immense standing army of enforced soldiers, kept in readiness, should the will or whim of the

Sovereign demand their services—that was contrary to the traditions of the Americans. But a Nation, composed in part of a floating population of immigrants from many other countries, people who had not always a proper sense of responsibility, and were often ignorant of our customs and laws, required a force of well drilled and equipped men, as a National police force, to be used with discretion in suppressing riots, protecting life and property, and maintaining order where the civil authorities were unable to cope with the disturbance; a circumstance which had occurred on several occasions. As to an army for National defence against foreign invasion, it was long the settled conviction of the Nation, and one recognized by other nations, that no foe could succeed in conquest by land; the people were too easily transformed into soldiers, and in their hills and valleys and internal lakes and streams could hold out indefinitely against any force that the world could send against them.

Extraordinary as it may seem, at the time of these occurrences (18—), the United States had neither a Navy nor an Army worthy of the name. The Constitution declares that Congress shall have power to “provide and maintain a navy,” and to “raise and support armies;” to “declare war and to punish piracies and felonies committed on the high seas and against the laws of nations;” to “protect each State against invasion or domestic vio-

lence," and to "provide for the common defence." How any one or all of these provisions were observed was a question for Congress to answer; as they had neglected to provide for army and navy; and that fact led to the disasters herein recorded.

Besides, there being but few armories or accommodations for military drill in the different States, owing to the apathy of the people, who withheld financial support and encouragement, many of the State Militia and Home Guard organizations had been abandoned; so that thoughtful people looked with concern upon a parade of Communists, 25,000 strong, in New York City, marching to revolutionary airs, flaunting the red flag of revolt, and displaying banners which announced principles that were subversive of all order and government.

Neither had this Nation at this time a merchant marine, as before mentioned. Most of the iron and wooden steamers and ships engaged in the foreign trade were owned and manned by foreigners, and sailed under foreign flags, and the immense traffic between our shores and other countries was carried on almost entirely in British ships, whose owners received the profits and advantages. In case of war between Britain and another maritime nation, this unnatural condition of affairs would expose all our exports to capture, and our commerce to sudden destruction.

The Star-Spangled Banner, once the pride of Americans at home and abroad, and the admiration of the poor and oppressed of all nations, was seldom or never seen, except on our Public buildings and hotels, or on our coasting vessels. Blood crimsoned the cheeks of Americans when they realized that the Envoys and Plenipotentiaries of the United States to foreign nations were compelled to proceed thence under an alien flag, while the American Ministers and Consuls to Brazil and to the sister Republics of South America could not reach their destination without crossing the ocean to England, thence re-crossing, and always in British ships; as all the American direct steamship lines had been superceded by the foreign subsidized steamers.

The reasons for the decline of our formerly grand and profitable merchant marine were various, some of them being that Congress, under pressure from the South and West, which favored agriculture, at the expense of commerce and manufactures, totally failed to grasp the undeniable truth that ships built of American materials, by American capital and labor, required *Protection* in some way, as well as American factories. That American ships could not compete with ships built, manned and run by the cheaper materials, interest, labor and taxes of Britain, nor could American manufactures stand similar competition with foreign products, the ex-

periment having been tried; resulting in failure. If Congress had persisted in legislating for the factory as they had for the ship, the manufacturing industries of this Country would have met the fate of the ships, and been swept away permanently, universal bankruptcy following in their wake. Congress voted millions of dollars to carry imaginary mails over vacuous swamps of the South and inane plains of the West, and millions more to improve ambitious rivers and pseudo harbors, and millions for the railroad and coasting mail service, but nothing to encourage foreign commerce in American ships, and not a dollar above cost for conveying the ocean mails, and sometimes compelling steamers to carry such mails at a loss.

Congress neglected to heed the Constitution, which provides: "They shall have full power to establish commerce;" and again, "Congress shall have power to regulate commerce with foreign nations and with the Indian tribes." The paltry amount of money voted by Congress for "establishing commerce" could readily be ascertained by reference to the Treasury archives, but the untold millions which had been drawn from the Nation's coffers to "regulate the Indian tribes," will never be revealed this side of doomsday.

Instead of protecting and fostering American commerce, Congressional legislation merely finished the

work of destruction commenced by the British-built Confederate cruisers of 1861, by imposing and continuing onerous war taxes and burdens, and imposing unjust laws and discriminations against American ships used in the foreign trade, so that Americans could only own such shipping at the expense of being ruined. One count against King George, in the Declaration of Independence, was "for cutting off our trade with all parts of the world," exactly what Congress persisted in doing.

In strong contrast to this was the policy of Great Britain and other European nations, which fostered ship building, and encouraged commerce by munificent liberality. The foundation of the British Navigation Laws was self interest. With her grand navy, Britain really had fewer National Navy Yards than America, because Britain employed private ship builders, at immense profits, to build most of her magnificent war ships; and she subsidized her merchant marine, paying enormous sums for postal and other services to her merchants, and thus enabled them to underbid all competitors for the ocean carrying trade of the world; and they were not backward to seize the golden opportunity, to their own aggrandizement, and to the destruction of our American merchant marine. Nothing but the law that American shipping only should be engaged in our coasting trade

and inland navigation, saved that extensive and profitable business from a similar fate.

It could not be denied that during the period when the Government did advance part of the money to start an American line to Europe, and paid encouraging sums for carrying the mails from New York, that a line of magnificent steamers was established which have scarcely had their parallel in later times. Many Americans still remember with pride the Collins American steamers. And had Congress thus spent annually a few millions in subsidies and mail contracts, it would have encouraged others to enter the business, and repaid the Nation tenfold, and we would not now have to acknowledge the humiliating fact that but two lines of steamers carrying the American flag are plowing the ocean! All subsidies and special Governmental mail contracts having been withdrawn, under the dictatorial demands of Jefferson Davis and similar leaders, the business was destroyed; inasmuch as private merchants and companies could not contend and compete with foreign merchants, whose lines were protected and subsidized by their Governments, especially when American commerce was further hampered with antiquated taxes and discriminations.

It was that true American Statesman, James G. Blaine, who suggested that a general law of the United States be passed, offering any person or corporation who would

build a ship or steamer with American materials and labor, a subsidy for carrying the mails to foreign countries, according to frequency of trips and miles traveled, which would immediately revive our drooping commerce; and John Stuart Mill, a true Britain, proclaimed the fact that "Government should do the things which are made incumbent upon it by the helplessness of the people." All but Congressmen seemed to appreciate the wisdom of these sages.

The Erie Canal was built by New York State. The railroads and canals in Pennsylvania, which developed the coal and iron trades, were built by the Commonwealth. The Pennsylvania Railroad, the pioneer highway to the West, was helped financially by the City of Philadelphia. With the record of these and other Governmental subsidies and grants subsequently made to public improvements before us, we can appreciate the wisdom of Congress in its liberal grants of Public land and financial support to the Pacific Railroads. Without such assistance, these stupendous enterprises could not have been built. Who can estimate the hundreds of millions of wealth these subsidized railroads and canals have produced for the American people? And who can deny that similar treatment of American shipping would produce like results?

To make matters still worse, Congress had passed a

law called: "The Free Ship Bill," which enabled Americans to buy ships abroad; but this remedy, intended for the relief of our ship owners, totally failed (just as Free Trade in merchandise had failed); as it led to the reduction of the wages of American shipwrights to starvation prices, to enable their employers in building ships, to compete with British shipmasters. After this policy had closed all the private ship-yards left in the United States, ruining the owners and scattering the workmen, the British shipbuilders, seeing that all competition was crushed out, advanced the prices of ships fully up to what they would have cost if built in America; so that Americans could not own ships to advantage, for use in foreign trade, especially as Congress had never repealed the unjust taxes, laws and discriminations, which were levied upon American ownership in ships.

As our ocean merchant marine declined, rendering it impossible to open new markets for our products and manufactures abroad, unless carried under foreign flags, so declined our once glorious National Navy, as the one seldom exists without the other; and our Navy Yards were almost abandoned. Congress utterly failed to appreciate the wisdom of the British policy, which, in return for the bountiful subsidies paid to her merchants, by law held this splendid fleet of merchant steamers and other ships, subject to the order of the Government,

as cruisers and transports, in case of war. By this arrangement Britain adopted a reliable means of National defence and public safety. Her noble merchant marine, while plying from shore to shore, carrying the products of all climes in times of peace, thereby enriching her subjects; also possessed the power of readily being transformed into potent engines of destruction, in case of war.

CHAPTER V.

IN the year of these occurrences, 18—, Great Britain having lost her prestige, was declining towards a second-rate power; chiefly because the people had lost confidence in the Government, which intermeddled in the affairs of every other country, to the neglect of the interests of her home subjects. One of the first acts of the newly crowned British King was to modify Free Trade, and try to save England and its manufactures from the fate which overtook Ireland, by a Protective Tariff on foreign goods. Her immense resources of coal, iron, tin, etc., being nearly exhausted, and enhanced in cost by depth of mining; her workshops abandoned by their most skillful workmen, who had emigrated to the New World, where workmen are constantly being advanced to capitalists; and her manufacturers driven to desperation, when they found that other nations persistently refused to follow in Britain's ruinous Free Trade wake, (even her own colonies having repudiated it,) and that superior American goods were supplying part of their trade in foreign countries, and supplanting their own

goods in their home markets; His Majesty tried to revive trade, and again make England the workshop of the world, and force all peoples to contribute to her prosperity, but failed in the effort.

When his ancestors ruled this Country they crushed out our infant manufactures; and after the Colonies had asserted their independence, Parliament passed laws forbidding the export of machinery or the emigration of mechanics to America, and subsequently British manufacturers had frequently combined and shipped goods to this country to be sacrificed, with the view of wrecking our growing industries. More than Majesty was required to correct British Free Trade blunders of half a century's duration. The only Free Traders left in Britain at this time were the Government, the College Professors, and the princely manufacturers, whose organs still urged Free Trade as the only true policy for all people; but the working masses were aroused, and preferred for themselves Protection to their own labor and industries against the more degraded labor of Europe, and demanded a share of the comforts insured to American workmen.

The American people, while having but little sympathy with the British form of government, and believing that the wealthy British manufacturers were actuated by purely selfish motives in trying to cheapen products by depressing labor, always entertained the kindest feel-

ings for the middle classes of the British Isles, and were prepared to intensify that feeling when the love of liberty, which abounded on both sides of the Atlantic, caused the entire English speaking people to be Republican in form of government.

How to use the immense capital and secure a safe income was what exercised the minds of the British people at this time. In London, interest had declined to less than two per cent. a year, while taxes were increasing to support Royalty in its luxury. There being but little use for money in business, owing to severe competition and trifling profits, the people sought investments abroad; and millions of British gold had gone into the Isthmus Canal, and into Mexican silver mines, forests and railroads. The merchant fleets of Britain had for years carried the products of their factories to Mexico, Brazil and other South American States, and the British war ships invariably followed, to protect the commerce and subjects of the Sea-girt Isle.

Just at this juncture, the governments of Great Britain, France and Germany were smarting under a supposed affront given them by the United States Government, in some transactions connected with the inter-oceanic canal. War had even been hinted at by the radical newspapers, but the matter was in process of amicable adjustment, as generally could be, and always should be, among

Christian nations. A Provincial English newspaper had sneeringly said, however, that the other Powers, being unable to discover any American army or navy to fight with, rather than annihilate a race of mechanics and farmers, concluded to let diplomacy settle the dispute peacefully.

About the same time Yucatan, one of the Gulf States composing the Republic of Mexico, which had previously seceded from the Mexican Confederation several times, and returned again to the embrace of the Mother Country, had declared its independence, and started anew, under a Republican form of government. The new nation was promptly recognized by the United States, as was the custom in similar precedents; which act gave offence to several European powers.

The reason was because the Mexican Congress had granted extraordinary privileges to the British, French and Belgians for railroad building, timber cutting and silver mining, and they had imported their machinery and labor, and were doing a large and profitable business. The revolution and secession of Yucatan interrupted all this prosperity and placed the newly fledged State under the control of people who favored the Americans, but were inimical to foreign influence, and the country was kept in a turmoil for months; when suddenly a counter revolution overthrew the government,

and a Frenchman was declared President, who, being a military man, managed affairs to please himself and compeers. But the country did not recover its prosperity, as the Americans had conciliated the Mexican government, and were building railroads and canals and working silver mines and cutting mahogany to their own profit, but much to the disadvantage of the Revolutionary party of Yucatan; and there were fears of a hostile conflict, and most of the Americans left the country.

Finally, a claim for ten millions of dollars was preferred by these foreign schemers, who controlled the government of Yucatan, against the United States Government, for timber alleged to have been improperly taken by American citizens from mahogany forests owned by the Yucatanites; a demand which the press and the people treated with the utmost contempt, as it was evidently but one of many attempts, from home and from abroad, to get a hand into the American Treasury; and Congress only laughed, as they remembered the French Spoliation and Geneva Award claims, still unsettled.

To show further how the events of that year came about, and led to the disasters recorded in this history, we must state that there were unprincipled and corrupt men in the United States, some native but more of them adopted citizens, who were ready to do anything to

secure money, without honestly earning it. Their fathers had amassed colossal fortunes in stock gambling operations; others had locked up money in the banks, to the distress and ruin of hundreds; others had speculated in grain and meat, withholding them from dealers, and raising the price of food to the poor man and widow and orphan; others had gambled in cotton, withdrawing it from market to raise the price from scarcity, thereby making money by stopping the cotton mills for weeks, and nearly starving the operatives; others had been blockade runners during the Rebellion of 1861, and kept it alive for years, so that nearly every Northern soldier who fell, was shot with English balls, fired from English rifles with English powder; others had been engaged in the execrable slave trade, bringing the unhappy Africans to Cuba, and selling those who survived the horrors of the slave ships, at so much per head; others had supplied the Chinese with opium and gensing, destroying them body and soul; others formed idols in brass and iron, to supply the heathen with gods for worship; others had organized mining and other corporations, taking millions from their dupes in exchange for valueless stock; others had made worthless British calicoes, and sold them to China and India, branded "American."

Still others had fled the country because of an attempt to capture Canada, during the Irish troubles;

others had been Indian agents in the West, who sold war materials to the savages with which to devastate the frontier settlements; others had filled Government contracts with inferior materials, at dishonest prices; others had left the United States, because of their complicity in the whiskey rebellion of 18—; another large number were involved in an attempt to elect their candidate President of the United States, by secretly assuring voters that he would, when elected, unite the State with their peculiar Church, and bring about a marriage that is repugnant to every true American heart. Finally, there were Nihilists and Communists, worthless vagabonds from all quarters of the globe, too lazy to work, and too poor to live without it, but loud in their opinion that the world owed them a living, and they intended to have it. There were also corrupt men in high official positions, elected by the improper use of money, against the honest votes of the people; and many more such men out of office, all spending money beyond their incomes, and ready for any enterprise, honorable or otherwise, which would replenish their coffers and support them in luxury; as the ill-gotten gains of their ancestors had long since been squandered.

CHAPTER VI.

IN August 18—the Government of the United States was at peace with all the world, and there were substantial evidences of increasing prosperity and happiness on every side. The country rapidly recuperated after the establishment of Protection to our industries, and had no fears of danger from any source. But having neither Army nor Navy the Monroe Doctrine could not be enforced in Yucatan.

For months previously, however, there had been unusual telegraphic messages sent over the country in cipher, many of them were cabled to Europe and Mexico, but these excited no suspicion, owing to the large amount of business transacted; all the leading merchants using a cipher, to preserve privacy. At about the same time one of our Consuls had reported a large influx of men into the Mexican State of Yucatan. Many of them were Belgians and other foreigners, and some came from the United States. One Consul, who seemed to spare a little time to attend to State duties, actually discovered the fact, and wrote to the Department of State, that a

large army and navy were evidently drilling and practicing on the Yucatan coast.

Reports had also been received from Mobile, that shipments of cannon and war materials had gone to Yucatan from England, and it was thought an expedition was organizing to conquer and hold one of the smaller Central American States—a species of warfare and plunder not unknown to the “manifest destiny” Americans or the “Mosquito King” British of a former age.

At this time the United States had no Navy worth mentioning, and the American Foreign Merchant Marine was too trifling to be in any danger, so the Cabinet, upon hearing of these warlike preparations on our Southern borders merely said that if these Mexican half-breeds chose to edify themselves by shooting each other, they were entitled to the privilege.

On a sultry evening early in August, 18—, the third Assistant Secretary of State, the only Cabinet Representative in Washington, was waited upon by the Minister from Yucatan, who demanded his passports, and handed to the astonished official a declaration of war against the United States; to the effect that the President and Congress of Yucatan, being unable to obtain payment of their just claims and a redress of grievances through the usual diplomatic intercourse, had appealed to the sword; also declaring the whole Atlantic and Pacific coasts of

the United States under blockade, of which all foreign Powers had received proper notification. The Secretary telegraphed the extraordinary news to the President, who had gone to the Oregon coast, to recover from malaria; also to the Cabinet, who had deserted the pest-stricken Capital in Summer, and who were at various places from 200 to 2000 miles distant.

The next morning the press took up the news, and treated it with derisive contempt; in fact the whole people looked upon the matter as the very climax of farcical absurdity, and a laugh of scorn was heard throughout the country.

A change came over the people on the following day, as the cotton and other brokers discovered that telegraphic communication with the South and West had been broken, and there being no apparent cause, it was feared that the wires had been tampered with. It was difficult to communicate with the President in Oregon, and this suspense resulted in a feverish condition of trade. The possibility of a conspiracy was suggested, involving certain base characters from the United States and elsewhere, known to be in Mexico, with compeers, possibly, at home; and before sunset, stocks declined ten per cent. and all business was dull and unsettled.

Energetic measures were inaugurated by the Government, which controlled all railroads and telegraphs, and

peculiar breaks were discovered, evidently the work of design, and extending for hundreds of miles. Feverishness in commercial and financial circles was succeeded in a few days by excitement and panic at the Stock exchanges, and this feeling of insecurity was intensified, when news came, tardily, from Mobile, that an earthquake, or some dreadful calamity had happened in Florida; but owing to the interruption of telegraphic communication, no particulars could be obtained. The next day, however, revealed the truth in all its dreadful reality. It being Sunday, the people were assembled in their houses of worship, in the evening, when the news was read to them, as it had flashed across the continent, and under the ocean, that a fleet of ironclads and other war steamers, flying the colors of Yucatan, had sailed up Pensacola Bay, in Florida, captured the half garrisoned forts, after a feeble resistance, dismantled and demolished them, and after three hours' notice to the inhabitants to vacate, had shelled and reduced to ashes most of the City of Pensacola; and then steamed away for parts unknown, without effecting a landing.

The two leading political parties of the day were familiarly termed: "Progressionists" and "Obstructionists." The latter had generally been in the minority, but could, with the assistance of a few trimmers from the other side, secure votes enough to pass certain

measures through Congress, and they had again attempted to reduce the tariff on imports; had delayed resumption of specie payments, assailed the National Banks, favored State Sovereignty, or the right of one State to secede at pleasure from the National compact; and both parties were responsible for violations of the Constitution respecting an army and navy, and for bad navigation and tax laws, and Free Trade in ships, which had swept our merchant marine from the ocean and indirectly invited this invasion. But when the appalling news came from Florida, when our homes were endangered, our flag outraged, and the Nation humiliated by a band of half breed Indians and their allies, their so-called political differences were scattered to the winds, and all parties, schisms and factions seemed to have run together like ores in a furnace, and the finished product turned out, as if from one mould was: "American Citizen."

Painful days and sleepless nights followed. The people assembled in mass meetings and demanded instant action by the Government. The excitement was intense, and hourly increasing, especially in the large cities. Stocks fell off in price 25 to 50 per cent., and a financial panic swept over the country, carrying down weak houses, and crippling stronger ones. Many large manufacturing establishments closed their doors, which helped further to swell the throng of excited men and women

in the streets. Congress could not be convened in special session, without the signature of the President, and he could not be reached, for reasons already given. The Navy Department telegraphed for its scattered officers, who prepared to leave for the South, as an attack on Mobile or New Orleans seemed probable.

The navy consisted of but few vessels, and nearly all, unfortunately, were absent from the United States. The Pacific squadron of three steamers was escorting the Presidential party to and from Oregon, others were on duty at the Isthmus Canal, several on the Newfoundland coast, others in the China Sea, looking after Pirates who had robbed American citizens. Finally, two old wooden ships, all of the United States Navy that was available in American waters in this hour of dire need, were equipped and manned at Fortress Monroe, and despatched to Mobile, with instructions to await further orders from the Department.

As to the army, there was none worthy of the name. A few men answered to roll call at the various forts of the country, many of these, together with the cadets from West Point and Annapolis, had been sent to the South. The rest of the army were fully occupied with the Mormons and Indians, or were doing duty on the Canadian frontier.

Nearly a week had passed before the painful details of

the atrocities at Pensacola arrived, the telegraph still working irregularly. Appeals came from Mobile and other Southern cities for means of defending themselves against the ferocious enemy, who was hourly expected. After some delay, the Vice-President, by advice of the Cabinet who had assembled in Washington, and at the urgent solicitation of leading citizens, issued a semi-official call upon the Governors of the States to despatch the local State Militia at once to the South. The Massachusetts 6th, the New York 7th, the South Carolina 3d, the Pennsylvania Keystone Battery, the Maryland 5th, and Virginia Black Horse Cavalry hastily assembled, mustered in men enough to fill up their platoons, and all except the Battery took their departure for Mobile the same night. Other States soon responded, and within ten days from the destruction of Pensacola, some 10,000 men, indifferently armed, equipped, and officered, were en route Southward. There was no ample provision for transporting and feeding so large a number of men, but the American mind was equal to the position. Privation and suffering could be endured temporarily; they had borne them before, and with patience, for the sake of the dear country they were proud to call their own.

If the intelligence of the fall of Pensacola aroused the indignation of the American People, and the latent energies of the Government, how startling was the effect

when the news came which intensified the feeling, and made the blood of Americans boil with shame, that the two frigates, which had sailed from Fortress Monroe, had been met, three days after they left Hampton Roads, by the enemy's fleet.

The commander of the American fleet (if we can designate it such) was that brave officer, Captain Faragut Robeson, who sailed Southward contrary to his own judgment, as he feared the hostile ships might steam Northward; but obeying orders, his colors were flying gaily, when an ironclad steamer hove in sight, fired a shot across his bow, and commanded him to surrender. It was unlike an American thus to yield without an effort to defend himself and the honor of his country; so he ran his twenty-pounders out of their wooden port-holes, and prepared for action. An hour brought a dozen of the enemy's iron steamers in sight, with heavy guns and full crews, which were skilfully manœuvred from the flagship; and at a signal they poured a broadside into the wooden American ships, badly crippling them both. The plucky American returned the fire, without any effect, when a second shot from the enemy carried away his masts, and he could do nothing to save his men still living, but strike his colors and ask for a parley with a view to surrendering. But the shot and shell poured incessantly into the ill-fated

ships, until they went to the bottom with all on board.

The American people were exasperated beyond measure by this outrage, and were inclined to find fault with the Government for sending the army and navy South, while possibly the real danger was in the North. A rumor had come from Boston that a suspicious fleet had been sighted south of Montauk Point, but similar stories were telegraphed from Charleston and Galveston; so that the uncertainty and excitement seemed to increase hourly, adding to the perplexity of the Government.

Business was prostrated. Recruiting offices were opened in the large cities, and the American flag, which had been hidden for years, was unfurled from many buildings. It was touching to see the devotion of the people to their time-honored banner.

The fear was increasing that the enemy might have designs upon the North, and the bankers and merchants came forward and offered millions with which to purchase ships to protect their cities. Most of the seaports were defenceless against the invulnerable steel-clad steamers of the enemy. There were vessels enough in New York harbor alone to make a formidable navy, after American ingenuity had encased them in steel armor plates. These vessels were, however, with the exception of a few coasters, all owned by foreigners, and they could

not be legally transferred in ownership without weeks of delay. As to American ships, Congressional action had practically driven such from the seas ; and now the time had come for using them, but none could be immediately secured. In New York harbor several iron clad war steamers belonging to European nations were gaily riding at anchor, with their flags flying in holiday costume, as if laughing at the National disgrace and discomfiture.

CHAPTER VII.

AT last the President was heard from, although the telegraph wires were still more or less interfered with. A Peruvian war ship happening to stop at San Francisco for coal, and the commander, being an American, and hearing the news from the Atlantic States, and grasping the embarrassing situation in which the Nation without a navy was placed, and knowing that a suitable vessel could not be hastily procured to notify the President of the troubles, and bring him speedily from Northern Oregon, gallantly volunteered to perform that service, and the President was soon within the Golden Gate.

After digesting the terrible news, and fearing to telegraph Eastward, lest his plans should be revealed to the conspirators, his messages were sent *via* China, India and Europe, and reached Washington after making the circuit of the Globe. He called Congress together in Special Session, and made requisition upon the Governors of the various States and Territories to furnish and equip and arm 250,000 volunteers, for twelve months; to drill them for service, and hold them in reserve, until the enemy's

plans developed. He moreover sent messages of good cheer to the people, and assured them that if he received the support he had reason to expect from the native and adopted citizens of the country, the invaders would soon be dispersed, business re-established and restored to its former prosperity, the National honor vindicated, and laws passed to prevent a recurrence of the trouble; and he would bear his full share of the burden. Being a man of great executive ability, and indomitable courage, from the North, the effect of these brave words was electrical, and the people retired that night, for the first time in a week, with a feeling of security and safety.

It would melt any American heart into tenderness, and inspire increased affection for his beloved Country, the heritage of his fathers, to see the readiness to respond as shown in the answers to the call for troops, the numbers offering far exceeding the original call. The first to reply was South Carolina, simultaneously with Massachusetts. From the lumbermen of Maine, the miners of California, the fishermen of Washington Territory, the planters of Louisiana, the copper workers of Michigan, the herdsmen of Texas; from the mechanics of the East and North, and the farmers of the South and West, one universal prayer went up: "God save America." The colleges poured out their students by thousands; the farmers left their wives and children to reap their har-

vests; the professional men tendered their services as surgeons, nurses and chaplains, and the working classes threw down their tools to become defenders of their homes, and upholders of their Country's honor and glory.

A few of these responses may not be uninteresting:—

South Carolina replied:

“The Palmetto State is ready. One regiment has gone forward; others will follow. The spirit of '76 survives.

“W. HAMPTON RODMAN, *Governor.*”

From Massachusetts:

“The Bay State has sent a regiment; will open recruiting offices for volunteers. God save the Country.

“J. ANDREW SNELLING, *Governor.*”

From Pennsylvania:

“The Keystone State is arming her sons. ‘She has coal enough to warm her friends, and iron enough to cool her enemies.’

“A. CURTIN WISTER, *Governor.*”

From Wisconsin (in German):

“The Governor is in Prussia. One regiment of German riflemen, fully equipped, has gone forward; another, all Americans, awaits transportation. God save the American Fatherland.

“CARL SCHURZ, JR., *Lieut.-Governor.*”

From the Territory of Hibernia:

“Don't be blathering your secrets before everybody, as some spalpeen has tapped the ribbons. Adopt a cipher in telegraphing. Buy Russian war ships. My regiment of sharpshooters is ready. Give me a brigade of boys, and we will drive the black mailers into purgatory. Hurrah for Hibernia and the Union.

“ROBT. EMMETT SHIELDS, *Ass't Secretary of State.*”

This last dispatch was remarkable for its Irishisms, but contained three important suggestions: adopt a cipher; buy war ships from the only nation on earth likely to help us in our extremity; and the hint at blackmailing. Possibly the whole trouble was concocted by a band of unprincipled conspirators, backed by foreign gold, the design being to strike the United States in a weak place, when entirely off guard, under the pretense of war, and before formidable resistance could be offered, or aggressive measures inaugurated, spread terror over the country, capture and hold one or more important points, and extort a heavy sum as indemnity. There were not wanting men, money and materials sufficient to make the effort, but the crowning realization of the expedition was the doubtful part of the programme, as the first gun fired at Pensacola had united the whole American brotherhood.

We have stated that on the 22d day of August, when the first response came from the President, the people breathed freer, and were inspired with courage and hope, and retired with a measure of calmness, compared with the turmoil of the past fortnight. But it must not be supposed that the excitement had subsided, nor the resentment of the people been modified. In all the large cities recruiting stations were opened the same night, for enlisting volunteers under the President's call, in ad-

dition to the State militiamen, who had already gone South; and men were responding with an enthusiasm and unselfishness unheard of in the annals of history. Wonderful as was this mighty uprising of the people for the protection of their Government, more surprising still was the facility with which private citizens of all ages, and from all stations of life, were transformed into soldiers, enduring privation and hardness, as if inured from childhood to the barracks and camp.

During the night of August 22d a heavy fog hung over New York and environs, and the coolness, following a rainstorm, had driven the people into their houses, many of whom had almost lived in the streets pending the excitement. Thousands also had come to the city from the interior, to be enrolled in the army, and had gone into camp in Central Park.

Comparatively few people, except those engaged at the newspaper and telegraph offices, knew that magnetic communication had been difficult to maintain during most of the evening, that the American cable to Europe had ceased to work at sunset, and even the local wires in New York and Brooklyn responded indifferently; and to the latter city, as evening advanced, stopped entirely. In the absence of any known cause, the operatives were sorely puzzled and had their suspicion aroused that something extraordinary was about to occur.

It was past midnight when several violent explosions occurred in rapid succession, which aroused the country around, throwing to the ground those who were standing, and with such power as to shake New York and vicinity to the centre, as if an earthquake had rocked the mighty cities to and fro before engulfing them in destruction. People sprang from their beds, and ran into the streets, fearing that the houses would fall upon them, so terrible had been the vibrations. The explosions had put out many electric lamps, which added greatly to the confusion; but on Broadway, the lights were burning and they gave a ghastly hue to the troubled faces of the gathering multitude. Men with hurried steps, and women and children in tears, crowded towards the central points to hear what had occurred; and half an hour of suspense and agony passed, when the news came to the City Hall, where the Mayor and leading citizens had hastily assembled, that the Brooklyn tower of the bridge spanning the East River had been blown to atoms, and the cables and fragments had fallen into the river, obstructing its navigation. The loss of life was not serious owing to the hour, but great injury had been done to surrounding property.

While the wisdom assembled within the City Hall was endeavoring to fathom the mystery of this outburst, it was supplemented by the appalling intelligence, brought

from Brooklyn, that the Yucatanites had effected a landing at ten o'clock on Coney Island. The fleet consisted of steel and iron clad war ships and gunboats, and armed transports, and although the night was dark, the sea was comparatively calm, and if the magnificent ocean piers had not offered every needed facility for landing the artillery and mortar batteries, there would have been no special difficulty at other points, nor danger from the forts in the Narrows. As to the number of vessels, or strength of the military force, all were in ignorance.

The fog was intense, and the enemy approached so stealthily, guided by home traitors and pilots, that the hotel proprietors and citizens knew nothing of the matter until they were startled by hordes of rough Belgian troops, who drove them from shelter, and when resistance was offered, the house whence it emanated was burnt. The terrified inhabitants fled towards Brooklyn before the advancing vandals, who, tearing up railroads, destroying all bridges and telegraphs and other property, marched over splendid roads North-eastwardly towards the East River, striking for a point near Long Island City. At same time the fleet moved to a point off Rockaway Beach, so as not to be exposed to a long range shot from Fort Hamilton at sunrise.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE Brooklyn Bridge had not been destroyed by the Yucatan Army, but by engineers involved in the conspiracy, who had been plotting this and other diabolical acts for weeks previously, and who had assisted in the landing of the troops.

Never before had the streets of New York and Brooklyn witnessed the scenes of that morning. Long before daybreak, the avenues adjacent to the New York City Halls were filled with a mass of excited humanity, half frantic about the future movements of the enemy, and as the morning papers were distributed, telling the story of the invasion with its horrors and atrocities, not only was the indignation of the people boundless, but fear and panic were added to their tortures.

As daylight approached, and the wagons, stages and horse cars began to move about, the multitude increased, especially of women and children, and nothing on wheels could be moved on Broadway and the other principal streets, without difficulty. Heavy express wagons, and others improvised for the occasion, guarded by armed

men, finally forced their way to the United States Treasury and Custom House, and to the Banking and similar Financial Institutions, where trusted officers took from the vaults, hundreds of millions of dollars, in money or valuables, to be carried to the interior for safety; and so great was the necessity for haste, that in some instances gold and silver and bank notes were packed in old barrels and boxes for transport. The railroad and insurance companies, and other public and private corporations and firms, wanted to remove their records and effects, and some people their furniture, but the morning was fully occupied with removing the treasures. The large jewelry establishments packed up and forwarded their valuables; truckmen realizing as much as \$100 an hour.

Martial law was proclaimed and the Mayors of Brooklyn and New York called upon the General Government to repel the invaders, who practically held the key to both cities. All the available State Militia had unfortunately gone South, where the attack was expected, and the volunteers enlisted were raw recruits, many of them unused to handling firearms. The National Government was adverse to any forward movement on Long Island at present, and was without a ship or a regiment to dispatch to the relief of the threatened cities, and could only send some West Point cadets, who would drill the recruits, until the Regulars and State Militia could return

from the South, if their services were not there in demand.

The Mayors and State authorities would not listen to a delay, and believed that a sufficient force could be enrolled and properly officered, to drive the invaders to their ships, and compel a retreat. The Americans saw that a few hours' march would put the enemy within shelling distance of both cities, so they hastily organized regiments and appointed Colonels; placing the new army under the command of General W. Scott Rotch, a gallant young officer, who had distinguished himself in the Mormon war, and in the whiskey rebellion, but who accepted the position with some hesitancy, especially as the General Government advised against aggressive measures. The necessity was great, however, and he was urged by considerations of patriotism to lead these men forward, and save thereby the two cities from pillage, and the Nation from further humiliation.

War for conquest, from motives of envy or jealousy, or to gratify pride and ambition, how dreadful it is, and how contrary to the spirit of Christianity, and how it delays the happy, glorious time when the principles proclaimed by the Prince of Peace will have universal sway; but a voluntary uprising of citizens to defend their firesides, and protect their country from invasion, seems to have the sanction of religion; hence, when the Ameri-

can tocsin sounded, the churches added their influence to the movement, and asked upon it God's benediction.

The volunteers were drilled in Central Park, and armed with the best rifles New York City could furnish. Militia men came in from other parts of the State; besides, a company from Pennsylvania with the Keystone Battery of artillery, joined the army, and by the evening of the 26th, some 8,000 men were mustered into the service, and it was proposed to cross the East River in ferry-boats, march toward the entrenchments, and attack the enemy at daylight the next morning.

The hastily improvised army was encouraged in every way. The citizens vied with each other in their attentions, and for one day, at least, the defenders of our liberties wanted nothing. Even ladies, whose fair hands had never touched the hands of stevedores, drove to the camp and encouraged the men to be brave and resolute; promising to care for their families during their absence, and to provide for their maintenance, should they never return. Relief committees were appointed, and began their beneficent work the same evening.

So different was this band of volunteers from the armies of Europe, where the Potentates *enforced* military service from their subjects; while here in Republican America, in this uprising was seen the embryo of a great National army. All branches of industry and conditions

of life seemed to be represented; the mechanics from the suburbs, the laborers from the tenement houses, the students from the colleges, the clerks and hands from the stores, offices and workshops, standing side by side with the sons of the merchants and bankers.

At four o'clock on the morning of the 24th, the fog having cleared, the citizen soldiers left the upper piers of New York, amidst the huzzas of thousands of men, and the prayers and tears of many more women and children. But plainly visible were seen from different points of New York and Brooklyn colored rockets, showing that conspirators in our midst were informing the enemy of our movements by signals. Upon their arrival on the Brooklyn side of the river, our men were formed in marching line, and moved towards the sea. A noticeable feature of the march was that the inhabitants had nearly all deserted their houses; many mansions had been robbed, and others both robbed and burnt by the invaders.

Within five miles, the pickets of the Yucatanites were met and driven in, and as our forces approached the hills, the bayonets and sabres of the manœuvring enemy flashed in the light of the rising sun.

Veterans and regular soldiers are not often anxious to engage in mortal combat, or enter a battle, the assertions of romance and poetry to the contrary notwithstanding;

but these impetuous recruits, full of enthusiasm and love of country, upon first getting sight of the foe, gave a loud shout, and prepared for the conflict. The General in command seemed ubiquitous, so many were the demands upon him, and so extended his duties, but he was equal to the position, and, encouraging his followers in every way, told them not to fire till directed, as success depended upon patient endurance, and when ordered to fire, to keep a constant stream of bullets pouring into the ranks of the enemy.

On our right was the Pennsylvania Battery, which opened fire, as we were not within rifle range, and this vigorous cannonade seemed both to surprise and annoy the enemy, who ordered his two companies of cavalry to charge and silence the battery; but after a score of troopers had been unhorsed, they were recalled.

The enemy occupied the top and sides of the hill, facing us, while we were in the valley, and his object was to force our infantry to attack him in that position, with entrenchments for his riflemen, and with several masked batteries of cannon and mortars; but our commander declined. The Pennsylvania Battery, however, kept pouring grape and canister into his ranks, and with telling effect, when suddenly, with colors flaunting amidst the smoke, the whole line moved forward, and our men waited with painful anxiety the order to shoot.

The enemy's troops came swooping down the hillside in battle array, and in good order, as his evolutions were perfect. We were appalled at their numbers, spreading as they did over a large extent of territory upon rising from their entrenchments. The sudden cloud of smoke showed that they were firing, although we had previously been made aware of that, by the bullets, which whistled over our heads. Nearer they came, and their shots began to take effect, when our centre was directed to open fire.

The Keystone Battery had lost several men, the enemy's immediate object being to silence that, and Gere's company from Syracuse went to its support. Soon our ranks began to show the effects of the enemy's rifles, as here and there a poor fellow fell, and was carried to the rear. Our left soon began with sharp shooters and Minnie rifles, to pick off the officers of the enemy, when distinguishable, and at last the order came to our right wing to fire, as the enemy was well advanced, and the battle soon became general, and nothing could be heard but an incessant rattle of musketry, save the groans of the wounded and dying. The Americans stood up like stone walls, pouring shot after shot into the ranks of the invaders, and while our columns were thinning by the slaughter around us, we could see that our opponents were also suffering terribly, when they suddenly called a retreat, upon being unexpectedly attacked on their ex-

treme left by a force of disciplined soldiers. The Americans pursued, contesting every foot of ground, being full of the enthusiasm incident to a first campaign, but not understanding whence came the unexpected assistance on their right, although greatly benefited thereby.

One of the prisoners who fell into our hands, badly wounded, was an intelligent Frenchman, who stated that the plans of the Yucatanites were interrupted by the drunkenness of the officers and troops, the previous night, after they had landed. Their intentions were to march at once to the East River, near Long Island City, and being in range of both New York and Brooklyn, and out of range of the forts in the harbor, they could, with their mortars, shell both cities, if they refused to pay a heavy ransom; that being the main object of the expedition.

He and all the soldiers had been promised a large sum as their share of the booty, for a ninety days' campaign, which was to be conducted with great energy, even ferocity, disregarding the laws of war or of nations, so as to inspire terror, and insure success before the Americans could be aroused. The darkness and fog delayed their landing some two hours, and when safely on shore, they found the hotels on Coney Island (which had been abandoned by the guests), well supplied with wines and liquors, and the invaders forgot their errand

of conquest, as they gratified their thirst for drink. As the delay in waiting until next morning for their forward movement is unaccountable from a military standpoint, the reason given by the prisoner may have been the truth, and subsequent developments confirmed his assertion as to the ultimate object of the invasion.

This prisoner, who proved to be a topographical engineer, died the same evening, and among his effects were found lithographed sketches of New York and Brooklyn, and their forts and defences; including also the exact location of all the important public and private buildings, banks, &c., and numbered from one to four thousand. There was also a key to these charts, giving the name and supposed capital of the bank or office indicated, including the residences and names of over two thousand wealthy citizens—all which were probably intended to facilitate plunder when they got possession of the cities.

CHAPTER IX.

WE have seen that the Americans were surprised, but greatly helped by unexpected reinforcements on their extreme right, and our duty remains to inform the reader whence they came and who they were.

For more than a decade previously to this invasion, the citizens of the United States had gradually abandoned the barbarous methods of celebrating the anniversary of American Independence, which had prevailed for years, and which generally, on each return of the Fourth of July, left several hundred young Americans either in the undertakers' care, or maimed for life. Instead of using firearms and dangerous explosives as formerly, the people went upon picnics and excursions into the country or parks adjacent to the larger cities. Excursions were very popular throughout the country. Some of them extended over days, weeks and months, so great was the prosperity of the country under the liberal wages and profits arising from a Protective tariff. Some parties went to the Pacific coast, or to Europe, and a few select coteries steamed around the globe.

A military association was traveling through the Northern States on an extended tour, when Pensacola was destroyed. It was a party of young men, delegated by various military organizations from different sections of the Union. The idea was conceived by a patriotic heart, but tinged with a romantic fancy, to gather together into one band, lineal descendants of the participants in each of the wars which the United States had been engaged in, since the separation from the Mother Country. They were to be uniformed and armed and equipped in the style of the age in which their ancestors had fought in the National army or navy. This brought together a large body of young citizen soldiers from various States, and of the highest social position.

In July they reached the city of Philadelphia, *en route* to Niagara Falls, and the scene, as they marched through Independence Hall, with uncovered heads, was deeply impressive. There were seen the ancient Continental of the Revolution, with his cocked hat and breeches, the Commodore and privateer of 1812, the trooper of the Mexican campaign, the boys in blue and boys in gray of the 1861 Rebellion, and the scouts and regulars of the Indian, Mormon and other wars. This party, numbering about 1000 men, with a special train of hotel cars, arrived at Niagara Falls the same day the Yucatanites landed on Long Island. The party then ex-

pected to proceed to Newport, where a grand National military review and fête were to end the excursion, after which they intended to break ranks and return to their homes.

It was part of the programme that their escort should consist of a company of the New York Seventh Regiment, and a company of the Boston Ancient Artillery, who met the party at Niagara; and the escort was increased at Newport by the addition of one company of the Philadelphia City Troop—three bands of honorable and brave men, of unsullied military reputation. Upon arriving at Newport, and learning the critical state of affairs at New York, they abandoned the arena of pleasure for the realities of war, and at once chartered a large steamer, came to New York by the Sound, and offered their services to the Governor. They landed near Harlem, a few hours after the rear guard of the citizen soldiers had crossed the East River, and the booming of cannon was within hearing distance, announcing, in unmistakable language, an impending conflict which would decide the fate of the great American Metropolis.

The young soldiers of the excursion and their escorts, at once resolved to go to the front, to help repel the invaders, and thus, on the field of battle, prove their claim to be worthy sons of the sires of the Republic. As they marched down Broadway to their transports, the peo-

ple came by thousands to cheer and encourage them; ladies waved their handkerchiefs, and maidens offered them flowers. In this band was represented the future honor and glory of America, the flower of the land: the chivalry of the South, the brains of New England, the millionaires of New York, the stalwarts of Pennsylvania, and the backbone of the country—the great West. Their excursion, which had begun with unmarred pleasure, was about to end with an act of heroism which will ever cause their memories to be cherished by a grateful people.

Upon deciding to take part in the contest, the General in command telegraphed them to take steamers to Bay Ridge, and attack the invaders on their left, upon a given signal. It was this vigorous assault which temporarily paralyzed the enemy, and forced him to retreat.

The sight of soldiers on drill in the armory, on street parades, at prize shootings, or at tournaments or fêtes, in sham battles or at ball room receptions; the reveille on gala days, or the bugle call at the holiday encampment, when the National standard floats placidly over the summer tent; the pomp and pageantry, the halo and glitter, the romance and poetry and glory of the martial life—all these may be fascinating to the youthful mind; a radiance attaches to military fame; a sublimity, even majesty, is connected with success. Ovation, the laurel wreath, the triumphant arch await the conqueror. Not

only does the hero warrior receive the applause of the people, his career beaming with immortal lustre, but Nations honor and exalt him to a Crown, or to the highest positions of dignity.

But war in reality—facing a whirlwind of bullets, resisting the sabre stroke or bayonet thrust, the dash and din and heat and smoke and fire and blood and clash and shock—the rolling drum and rattling musketry and dying groan and roaring cannon and shrieking shell; tell of war in earnest. The young and inexperienced soldier, the pride of father and idol of mother and pet of sisters, perhaps the light and joy of home, enters the contest full of life and hope. He is thinking of the noble and heroic deeds of his forefathers, and desires to follow them in the pathway to fame and glory. On his breast still droops the nosegay, pinned there by fair hands but a few hours previously, and the thought was charming, as he contemplated his return with the victorious conquerors, amidst the shouts of the multitude and the admiring smiles of his lady friends. How soon the bright visions of fancy fade away, as he, pierced through the body by a Mexican lancer, sinks to the earth, to be crushed beneath the steel-clad hoofs of the enemy's galloping steeds, to lie amidst dead and dying men and horses; bleeding, suffering, groaning, thirsting, fainting, dying.

Our forces pursued the enemy about five miles, and were approaching the sea, when suddenly, a roaring sound overhead informed us that shells were being thrown, and as the smoke lifted, we saw that the heaviest shells came from the war ships, some two miles distant. About the same time their infantry sounded a halt in their retreat; but they refused our request for a three hours' armistice to bury the dead.

Resisting stubbornly our continued but slow advance, the enemy finally resumed the offensive, and poured canister and grape into our ranks, additional to their rifle shot; while enormous shells went humming over our heads. Soon the aim of their gunners was more accurate, and 300-pound bombs crashed among us, and especially into the reinforcement of excursionists on our right, spreading death around. This, added to the frightful loss on our front, the death of our chief, General Rotch, and the capture of our artillery, threw our forces into confusion. To stand longer under such a fire was certain death, as we were outnumbered four to one, and the enemy's cavalry were manœuvring a flank movement on our left. *The Battle of Long Island* was lost, and there being no officer left to order a retreat, the remains of our scattered forces started on a confused flight towards Brooklyn, throwing their arms away, to hasten their escape to a point beyond reach of the shells. Nobly

and bravely had they fought, against fearful odds, and their stampede was but the result of superior numbers and position and discipline. The excursionists, or the remnant of that body of braves who had gone so unexpectedly to the help of the country, declined several demands to surrender, and retreated in fighting order to the shelter of the guns of Fort Hamilton, after losing in killed and wounded, 950 men, out of 1250.

Some of the volunteers gave out in their flight, and were taken prisoners, and eventually paroled. Of the 8000 men who left New York the previous evening, not over 5000 escaped death, wounding or capture, and those who finally reached Brooklyn were exhausted and despairing. The most intelligent of them reported the enemy to be about 25,000 strong; a majority of these were Belgians, with a few Mexicans. The steel-clad war ships were commanded by English and French officers, with guns and mortars of the heaviest calibre used in naval warfare.

The effect of this defeat upon the people of New York and vicinity was crushing, but it aroused to white heat the indignation of the entire country, and stimulated the Government to increased activity. There was lamentation throughout the land on that day, not only around the Metropolis, but in every State of the Union which had a representative in the excursion party. These noble

men had fought bravely, and maintained the prowess of their ancestors unsullied; but alas! on that night the full moon shone upon their upturned faces, whitened with the finger of death, as they lay upon the battle field; and there was mourning for them in a thousand households, and sorrow in many more.

A stampede from Brooklyn and New York began immediately into New Jersey and the interior of New York State. The railroads and steamboats were crowded, and thousands who were appalled by the overwhelming character of the disaster, deserted their homes and stores, and fled in terror on foot, many being women and children, and some of them widows and orphans from the result of that day's battle.

CHAPTER X.

THE Governors from the neighboring States were in consultation with the Mayors of New York and Brooklyn, at Yonkers, and telegraphed to Washington the news of the defeat. They were displeased with the reply: that the United States Government were doing all in their power to defend the Country, but they had not favored the advance into Long Island by the New York Militia, and were not responsible for it, nor surprised at the disastrous results.

The enemy was not idle, however; but, with an atrocious disregard of all humane feelings in neglecting to bury his dead or ours, he resumed his march towards the East River, keeping communication open with the fleet. His losses during the day had been over 1000, and this fact enraged the troops to fury, who, in their march, ruthlessly destroyed much valuable property and many private houses. Arriving at his destination at sundown, his heavy mortars were placed in position, and other arrangements made for an attack on both cities at long range, also for a defence, in case they were attacked.

At seven o'clock a boat crossed the East River, flying a flag of truce and bearing a demand to surrender both cities, with their forts, garrisons, and all persons under arms, immediately to the forces of Yucatan, or submit to a bombardment; not knowing, or pretending not to know, the utterly defenceless condition of the cities.

The demand, instead of being addressed to the Government of the United States, was upon the Mayors of New York and Brooklyn, and was couched in imperious, insulting language, perhaps not unnatural to a conquering leader, flushed with recent victory. The tenor of the proposition and demand was wired to the President, now on his Eastward journey, and the reply was: "Let them do their worst, but never surrender." The Secretary of War telegraphed that the Cabinet could not divulge secrets, but were doing all that was possible, and in time it would be made manifest.

Without waiting for an official reply to their first demand, the enemy, at early dawn the next morning, sent another truce boat across the river, which carried notice *that at noon on that day, unless their present demands were complied with, they would shell both cities, of which due notice was given to non-belligerents to leave them.*

The general Government was still ignored in this communication, and the demand was in less offensive language, but it was addressed to the Mayors and people of

the two cities. It stated that the Government of Yucatan held a large, unsatisfied claim against the United States, payment of which had been refused by Congress, and they would now proceed to collect that claim, with interest, and all the expenses of this righteous and necessary war. The present demand was upon New York and Brooklyn, now at the mercy of the Yucatan forces, and they would carry out their threats, and the two cities would meet the fate of Pensacola, unless the Mayors and leading citizens bound themselves to pay the sum of FIVE HUNDRED MILLIONS OF DOLLARS! Upon receiving this in cash or its equivalent, they would evacuate their present position, and leave New York and Brooklyn without further injury. The alternative would be a bombardment.

This last outrageous demand clearly showed the designs of the invaders. It looked like a blackmailing scheme of the grandest proportions, under pretense of an unsatisfied claim made by an insignificant Mexican State against the United States. As other nations recognized and practiced that process for collecting debts, real or imaginary, there was nothing inconsistent in their proceedings, but it seemed to be a war of the weak against the strong; and yet, in this instance, the mighty giant lay prostrate and bleeding, like Sampson shorn of his locks.

If the two cities yielded (and the enemy evidently

expected resistance of some sort), no doubt the marauders would proceed elsewhere, to some unfortunate city, and extort money in a similar manner; because until the Government could improvise an army and navy, the Yucatanites could, with their present force, do as they pleased along our defenceless Atlantic coast.

Several of the leading citizens owned each a hundred millions of real estate and personal property in New York and Brooklyn, and many individuals were each worth a million dollars or more, and now they were exposed to heavy losses; as insurance upon property is void in fires happening by invasion. These men came forward and agreed to pay the sum demanded, and save the two cities, provided Congress would engage to reimburse them from the National Treasury within ten years. The Mayors and Governor added their influence in their despatch to Washington, and urged the immediate acceptance of the terms; but the reply was: "Pay nothing; gain all the time possible."

An impression prevailed in certain quarters that the cities would not be shelled, there being no necessity for it, as the enemy had nothing to do but to march forward and occupy them without resistance, or, if he preferred a demonstration by his war ships, there was an easy task before him. They could steam up New York Bay and land at the piers! The pseudo forts, upon which two

great cities (one of them being the commercial and financial metropolis of the Nation) depended for protection, being totally inadequate to make any impression upon so formidable an armament; hence they were almost worthless in modern naval warfare. The guns of the forts had been known to burst while firing a salute!

The enemy's design, however, being booty, rather than conquest, he fortified a position whence he could threaten both cities, and he may have been ignorant of their defenceless condition. His hopes of success in the financial part of his plan lay in quick, sharp, decisive action; sparing nobody and nothing. Delay meant failure.

When the news was circulated that the cities would be attacked at noon, many distressing, even terrible scenes were witnessed. Brooklyn was surrounded by water on all sides not controlled by the enemy, and the people, in their flight, had to cross the rivers in order to get away from the doomed city. Everything in shape of steamers, boats of any size, or even rafts, were utilized to carry the panic stricken people into New Jersey.

In New York City still greater excitement prevailed during the morning; but an hour before noon some of the streets were bare of people, the stores, banks, newspaper and other offices were closed, and many of the dwellings deserted. Most of the foreign ships and steamers, with their national colors flying, had taken

refuge from the effects of the expected bombardment, by going up the Hudson River; the East River being impassable. The coasting steamers and other vessels, some of them sailing under the American flag, also went up the Hudson, except a score or more of iron coasters, which ran the blockade with trifling injury, and went to sea, sailing southward. After their departure the American flag was scarcely visible in the great, loyal city of New York, except on the Government buildings and on the forts in the harbor. Many people were afraid to display their flags lest they should be targets for the enemy's cannonade, or other demonstrations.

Several conspirators were caught sending up signal balloons and rockets, no doubt as a guide to the gunners, and others were taken while placing dynamite under the Custom House; and these men were killed by the infuriated mob.

Two Yucatan steamers were blockading the lower bay, beyond the reach of the forts. They allowed no vessel to enter the port, much to the consternation, inconvenience and loss of the masters of arriving ships, as some of them were laden with immigrants, destined for the West. The blockaders, however, were fully occupied in trying to make it effective. In several cases steamers passed in and others out, at night, without damage.

As twelve o'clock approached, the anxiety of the people

who remained in the cities became intense, as the sick and dying in families, hospitals and asylums, as well as the wounded in the battle of the previous day, could not be removed. Men with field glasses were seen on several prominent buildings in the upper part of New York, prepared to watch and report the effect of the cannonade, should shells be thrown.

At twelve o'clock precisely, instead of the usual ringing of bells and blowing of steam whistles, to mark the hour of rest and luncheon for the weary toilers in the innumerable workshops of the two cities; all these were painfully silent, but in the stillness a fearful explosion was heard, showing that the enemy had opened fire. The shells were of the largest calibre, and the first one was evidently thrown to gauge the distances. The engineers of the assailants, with glasses and instruments, were elevated on platforms, and guided the gunners in taking aim, although but few shells were thrown.

The first shell exploded within the space occupied by the Brooklyn Navy Yard, and not striking any building, merely ploughed a fearful chasm in the earth. The next was evidently aimed at the New York Post Office;—but why detail the horrors of those two hours? Let us rather drop the curtain over the awful scene, and record that, either by shells thrown by the enemy, but chiefly by dynamite placed within the buildings by the enemy,

whose sappers and miners were secretly at work at various points of the city, the Post Office, City Halls, Custom House, Sub-Treasury, and many other prominent, public and private insurance and financial buildings, both in New York and Brooklyn, were reduced to wrecks, and considerable destruction of surrounding property and loss of life attended the explosions.

One heavy shot seemed to have been aimed at Trinity Church, but passing over, crashed into a block of stores in the neighborhood, enveloping them in flames. Finally, old Trinity was struck, as if by a thunderbolt or earthquake, and the tower knocked into the adjoining grave yard. The beautiful structure, for so many years the admiration of all beholders, took fire, and with the adjoining buildings were soon a mass of blackened ruins.

CHAPTER XI.

Two hours of warfare upon two cities with over two millions of people! Who can estimate the loss of life, the damage to property, and the anguish and suffering of those who were forced to remain within their portals? But in two hours the destruction ceased. A small boat had started from the foot of 32d Street, flying the English, French, German and Spanish flags, and at about the same time the English and French war ships in port steamed down the bay with colors flying, saluting the forts in the harbor in passing, as if nothing unusual was transpiring.

What was the object of these visits to the invaders? Had the happy time arrived, predicted by a former President, U. S. Grant, that when Britain and America united hands, and worked together harmoniously in the interests of peace, they could prevent war throughout the world, and, by their very strength and power, compel the Nations of earth to settle their disputes without recourse to arms? But this could never be until Great Britain became a sister Republic—not by dynamite or

poniard, but by the education and elevation of the working people to the American standard. Democratic America cannot sympathize with Aristocratic Britain. There is a natural class antipathy.

The Nobleman who, in 1861, in the House of Lords, sneeringly referred to this Country as the "Disunited States," or that other British Nobleman, who, after inditing a most insulting demand upon the United States (which demand was afterwards softened by the noblest of Sovereigns) for the surrender of Mason and Slidell, said: "The time has come at last to be revenged on the Yankees," sounded the key-note of that irreconcilable antagonism.

We can affiliate with the British people, but not with their political institutions and class distinctions. A policy which would force a husband to enter his mother-in-law's palace by the back door, while his wife enters by the front with those of higher blood; or a principle which would withhold praise, honor or even mention of the name of a soldier who had saved the British army, simply because he was a private, can never find followers in America. We believe and practice the language of the immortal Declaration of Independence: "That all men are created equal," and when Britain and America both believe and practice that, the Anglo-American race will rule the world. Until then neither will rule it.

Society, as organized in 18—, seemed unprepared for the abolition of war, and after exhausting arguments against it, the conviction remained that war is best averted by a preparation for it, that it will cease when the heaviest armaments, the largest guns, the swiftest steamers, the most improved appliances, the most ingenious machinery, the costliest outfit, the best disciplined army and navy render it too costly and too destructive to practice. All these could only come from intelligence and science, and when in the hands of a superior military and naval Power, would always be a potent argument for peace, and against war and insurrection.

Wickedness and war seem companions, just as righteousness and peace will be in the future. Unfortunately, the United States, at this particular time, was not in a condition to unite with Britain in suppressing war among others, inasmuch as the Government, in plain violation of the Constitution, had neither an army nor navy to protect their own people from an invasion by an armed band of freebooters and marauders.

In New York and Brooklyn there are blocks of stores and dwellings owned entirely by foreign capitalists, some of them by the crowned heads and titled families of Europe, as safe and profitable investments, and some of these were being destroyed by the explosions, the fire insurance being null under such circumstances. The

Consuls of the Powers named, ever on the alert to protect the lives and property of the subjects they represented, went with a flag of truce to the invading army and supplemented their demand with their war ships off Rockaway, and informed them that their shells and explosions were endangering and destroying neutral property, and must cease at once, or they would take summary measures to enforce a cessation of hostilities, and their demand was complied with immediately.

Possibly the hostile forces, encountering no resistance, had concluded that if two hours of actual warfare, with its frightful destruction and loss of life had not brought the obstinate cities to terms, there was little use in further wasting ammunition. At any rate the firing and explosions ceased, and the future plans of the invaders were somewhat demoralized thereby, as every hour's delay lessened their chances of success in their chief object; and strengthened the American position.

The colors of the other nations were put upon thousands of buildings, as a protection; and for the second time in the history of these two American cities, the life and property of a foreigner were held sacred, while Americans were subject to insult, injury and death, and their property to destruction. Alas for poor, defenceless, misguided America, who had been brought to this humiliating position by ignorant legislation; but thank God, Liberty survived!

On August 26th, 18—, the forces of Yucatan occupied Brooklyn and New York. It was the anniversary of their capture by the British, more than a century before. The entrance into Brooklyn was not attended with unusual demonstrations, except that when the troops passed an American flag, which we are proud to say was not an unfrequent occurrence, they amused themselves by shooting it from its staff; and so the glorious Stars and Stripes were dragged in the mud and tramped beneath the feet of a repulsive, foreign soldiery. The horses of the officers and troopers were stabled in Plymouth and other large churches.

The army of occupation entered New York via Blackwell's Island, having made a bridge of fishing boats and other small craft taken from the East River, and floored with timber from the neighboring lumber yards. They encamped in Central Park, although that exposed them to a fire from Hoboken Heights. They numbered some fifteen thousand troops, many of them Belgians, with some Mexicans. The officers were English, French, and renegade Americans. They left their heavy ordnance on the Brooklyn side, and maintained communication with their fleet.

A short address was issued, saying that they had come to obtain redress from the National Government, which had been refused, and they would retire when their

claims for ransom were paid; meanwhile they demanded supplies and shelter for their army and navy. They had not been backward, however, about seizing and appropriating everything they needed, and many things which they did not need. The handsomest churches in the upper portion of the city were used as stables for their teams, and the Catholic Cathedral on Fifth Avenue as a club house for drinking, smoking and gambling.

The leading citizens were afraid to return to the city, because, being men of wealth and position, demands could easily be made upon them, which, were they to refuse, might endanger their property and jeopardize their lives.

Sad it was to an American to see the houses of Fifth Avenue and similar streets, abandoned by their occupants, and filled with drunken soldiers, who not only helped themselves to anything they took a liking to, but in their quarrels they would often destroy paintings, statuary and other works of art in these palatial American homes. Safes were forced open and silver plate, jewels and other things were carried off, to the extent of millions of dollars. Stores and warehouses were broken into and robbed, and even inhabited dwellings were entered, the inmates insulted and sometimes assaulted by the brutal soldiers. Bank and safe deposit vaults were blown open, and valuables taken therefrom. In some cases where re-

sistance was made, there was loss of life on both sides, and this was invariably followed by the prompt destruction, by dynamite, of the building whence the resistance proceeded. One young man, wounded in a similar affray, stated to the Americans who carried him to a hospital, that the leaders of the expedition were fearful that it would end in failure to secure the ransom; and pillage was resorted to, in order to refund them the cost of the expedition, as many of the ships were only chartered. He professed to have seen heavy wagons filled with silver and valuables, *en route* to the fleet for safety, and that this was the cause of hourly trouble in the camp, as the officers and leaders claimed all the booty, while the men demanded a share, and concealed diamonds and other stolen articles.

Sadder still to see women of refinement and virtue openly insulted by the barbarians, and sometimes criminally assaulted; while vice and immorality ran riot in the two cities. But saddest of all to every patriot heart was it to reflect that the Metropolis of America was in possession of and at the mercy of an invading army, whose flag flaunted over the city, while the dear old venerated standard of the Fathers was insulted and proscribed; and all this humiliation and suffering because Congress after Congress had been placed in power, not because of the fitness of the members for so high and

honorable a position, but because some of them could, through the machinery of local politics, secure the nomination by improper means, and so being ignorant of political economy and of true legislation, and reckless as to the needs of their constituents, and forgetful of the Constitution which they had sworn to maintain, they had failed to grasp the condition of the Country—had permitted it to drift to its present helplessness, and so allowed this fearful loss to come upon the people, and this deep disgrace upon the Nation.

CHAPTER XII.

BECAUSE two of the largest cities in the Union were groaning under the iron heel of the invader, it must not be supposed that the American Nation was conquered. The people did not impeach Congress, nor did Congress embarrass the Administration, nor did party criticise party, but all worked together harmoniously toward one end: the release of the enthralled cities, and the capture of the invaders.

The uprising of the citizens was one of the grandest sights ever witnessed, nor could any other nation in the world, on so short a notice, have 300,000 volunteers in camp, armed, equipped and drilling for the conflict. Two former Presidents—General Grant and Abraham Lincoln—had said, while addressing fragments of a former volunteer army, that *there were men in their ranks capable of filling any position in the land, civil or military*; hence this vast army of volunteers soon was commanded by efficient officers; as were the marines and sailors in the navy. Their chief motive was love of country, but they had enlisted to fight, not only for their firesides, but

also for the great doctrine of self-government, which they had received from their fathers, and desired the inheritance to descend spotless to their children. An army composed of such material and with such principles will prove invincible in actual conflict.

The presence of the President at the Capital was a tower of strength to the Nation at this juncture, as he was a great organizer. He threw an energy and enthusiasm into the work, peculiar to the American character, but surprising even in its results to himself. Under the Constitution, he was Commander-in-chief of the army and navy, and upon assuming control, he was embarrassed and chagrined to realize that he had neither army nor navy to command !

His first acts were to reinforce the garrisons at the forts of the seaboard, and to re-open telegraphic communication with all parts of the country. He moreover ordered immense tanks, made of heavy sheets of steel, which were to be floated to the water approaches to different cities, and then filled with stones, and sunk, leaving but a narrow space for the passage of ships ; which channel would be filled with torpedoes and similar destructives.

Several men were arrested while tampering with the telegraph wires, or throwing up signal balloons, and when found to be American citizens, were subsequently tried by court martial and executed.

The President also placed strong guards on all the railroads and other roads and rivers leading from New York and Brooklyn, and had secret agents in both cities, who reported hourly to headquarters every movement of the enemy. The pickets permitted no one to enter the cities, which cut off the invaders from information, and rendered their hold upon Long Island and Manhattan Island untenable; and their leaders soon discovered the fact.

Of the coasting steamers which ran the blockade, a score were being encased in steel armor plates. The cannon foundries, rifle works, iron and steel mills, dry docks and ship yards, were running perpetually with three sets of hands; while League Island Navy Yard in Philadelphia was re-opened, and became the rendezvous of the forming fleet, and with its electric lights for night work, presented a scene of intense activity, never before witnessed.

The inventive genius of the people was also aroused. Infernal machines, torpedo-boats, "sea eagles," peculiar magnetic guns, electric shells, chemical fires, dynamite mines and instruments of destruction innumerable were offered to the Government, and promised the greatest effectiveness; but all this became impotent when compared with the invincible courage and unconquerable spirit of the liberty loving people.

Congress promptly passed an Act to relieve American ships and shipping of all taxes and burdens heretofore imposed, which were one cause of the decline of American commerce, and indirectly of this invasion; and it may not be irrelevant here to remark, that within two years from its passage, American cereals, cotton, oil and other products of our fields, factories and mines were carried to foreign countries, not in foreign bottoms, but chiefly in mail and passenger steamers and ships built and owned in the United States, and manned by American officers and crews, and the profits and wages arising therefrom went into the coffers of our own people, while our National war ships followed our merchant marine to all parts of the world, and the inhabitants of other climes once again became familiar with the Stars and Stripes, and were reminded that the Republic of the West still existed.

Also a General Act encouraging commerce, and offering subsidies for carrying the mails in American ships to foreign countries, but reserving the right to buy or charter the subsidized steamers, in case of war. Also an Act abolishing the Free Ship Bill, and authorizing the purchase and equipment of fifty American iron steamers for the navy, and within a fortnight they were in the Delaware, receiving their armor plates.

Another Act increased the tariff twenty per cent. on

luxuries, and ten per cent. on all manufactures for one year; to augment the revenue, protect home industries, compensate the people for their losses by more active business and higher wages. If the people had to pay more, temporarily, for certain articles, they received proportionately more wages and profits; a matter well understood by all *intelligent* American workmen, especially when they voted upon National questions. For once, Congress fell in line with the people, and the exploded doctrines of Free Trade and Free Ships were sunk so low as to be beyond hope of resurrection.

The Army of the Pacific, some 20,000 men, were encamped at Oakland, California, while three war-ships graced the harbor of San Francisco. The Southern Division of the army, some 30,000 strong, bivouaced near Mobile, with five armed steamers; while the Army of the Hudson were in camps at West Point and at Harrisburg, numbering over 250,000 men. In an incredibly short time these large bodies of men were armed, equipped and thoroughly drilled in all military tactics, and organized into regiments, brigades, and divisions, and impatiently awaited marching orders.

The navy also responded "yes," to the inquiry from Washington whether they were ready to co-operate, and before our forests had dropped their autumn dress of crimson and gold, the forward movement began; the

fleet steaming down the Delaware, with forty magnificent steel clad war steamers, accompanied by gunboats and transports. At the same time the railroads began moving the troops; the artillery and cavalry having started afoot two days previously.

But we must leave army and navy and take another view of the invaders, who still held both cities, wherein were witnessed, daily, scenes of robbery, insult, murder; everything which might be expected from a coarse, uncontrollable soldiery, in a conquered territory. Officers and men continued to quarrel over the plunder, several shiploads of which had been forwarded to Nassau, in the British Bahamas. The officers did not inform the privates that a retreat was inevitable before many days, and that the officers had already arranged to break faith with the soldiers, escape to sea, meet at Nassau, divide the stolen property, and after paying the expenses of the expedition, go to Europe with handsome fortunes.

On the very day of the forward movement of our forces, the whole country was elated with the news which came from Charleston, that one, of a score of American Privateers already afloat, had captured a steam transport, with twenty officers from the Long Island invaders, and a cargo of India shawls, sealskin garments and expensive articles of attire, which had been taken from the deserted homes of Brooklyn. The steamer was hailing for Nas-

sau, and was within twenty miles of port when captured. Two of the officers being American citizens, were imprisoned, and eventually tried and executed for high treason.

As all the invading forces, whose plans were developed, were encamped in or near New York, the Army of the Hudson only moved forward, and as it started, a Proclamation was issued by the President, and made known to the enemy, inviting all *privates* in their ranks who were American citizens by birth or adoption, to come into our lines immediately, but threatening the *officers* with a trial for high treason, if captured in armed resistance to the Federal Union. This brought a score of privates only, and it was then evident that the renegade Americans engaged in this nefarious enterprise were but few in number, and that nearly all of them were officers or engineers; who at once plotted for an escape.

The same day three of the Yucatan fleet, laden with booty, and containing a number of army and navy officers, steamed Southward; and were subsequently captured by our privateers.

A storm off the New Jersey coast scattered our fleet somewhat, after passing the Capes of the Delaware, and as the vanguard, consisting of the New York, Alabama, New Hampshire and California rounded Sandy Hook,

they sighted but seven of the enemy's fleet, all that remained. These immediately manœuvered for action, which challenge the American Commodore, Swank, accepted. Both fleets opened with solid shot, doing some damage to each other's armor plating.

The enemy shifted position, and opened a steady fire of heavy shells, concentrating the attack upon the New York, which was the Flag ship of Commodore Swank. She had suffered severely from solid shot, and subsequently from the shells, but when a 300 pound shell exploded at the base of her turret, it dismounted her heaviest gun, and killed or wounded a dozen gunners. A second shell of similar size shattered the platform upon which Commodore Swank stood, while directing the movements of the fleet. He fell to the deck, and while apparently not wounded, was so stunned as to lie unconscious for half an hour.

The firing was continued on both sides, with more or less damage, when a solid conical steel shot penetrated the side of the New York, and severed a steam pipe, which rendered her proper management difficult, if not impossible. The officer in command directed a signal of distress to be made to the other ships of the fleet, but before the flag was unfurled, Commodore Swank revived, and in an instant comprehended the situation. Being unable to manœuver his ship from deficiency of steam,

he ordered two American inventions to be used. The first, which had never been tried in warfare, was a fan-shaped instrument mounted on a raft, which was launched and fired, and immediately, for five hundred feet around the flag ship, between her and the enemy, an impenetrable volume of chemical smoke arose from the decomposing sea water, towards the clouds, screening from view the flag ship, and rendering the enemy's aim uncertain, and his fire futile.

Interim, the New York was shifted about, and the inventors were summoned to test the practical workings of another new instrument of destruction. Most accurately were the measurements and bearings taken by scientific experts, and as the smoke of the former experiment vanished, a peculiarly shaped boat or float was prepared for service. It was made of cork and rubber, and was air-tight, so as to prevent it from sinking, yet by its fin-like arms under water, it could not rise above the surface. Upon this was mounted an immense steel projectile technically called a "sea eagle," with a sharp conical head. Upon a signal from the inventor, General Houston, the fuse was lighted, and with a loud shriek, it flew over the surface of the sea with the rapidity of lightning, and penetrating the side of the "Rule Britannia," at the water's edge, exploded with such force as to fire her powder magazines. So violent was the ex-

plosion that several of the officers and crew were blown into the sea; while the ship, with her cabins filled with valuable plunder, went to the bottom.

The contest was now between six and four, with the New York disabled and practically out of the conflict. Terrible, even sublime was it to see these steel clad monsters firing at each other, and with no uncertain aim. The Americans proved to be the better sailors, handling their ships with greater facility, while their gunners fired with greater rapidity, and concentrating their fire upon one ship at a time.

With glass in hand, Commodore Swank was watching and hoping for the remainder of his scattered fleet, but none were in sight, except a large Fall River Steamer, carrying the torpedo boats and other scientific engines of destruction, to which he immediately signalled, and received a response. The enemy shifting to the East, the American fleet formed a crescent, the Alabama being within a mile of Rockaway shoal, while the California was off the west point of Coney Island. This drove the enemy into closer quarters, and limited his range, and enabled the American fleet to rake his ironclads right and left, with shot and shell, and with telling effect, which soon slackened the opposing fire; an evidence of exhaustion.

Meanwhile, unnoticed by any one save by Commodore

Swank, who with his Flag ship had drifted southward, two small craft were launched from the Sound steamer, and immediately disappeared under the surface. One of these was a new American torpedo boat, scientifically constructed, and carefully timed, after accurate measurements by the inventors and engineers. In less than half an hour, the Yucatan Frigate, "Maxamillian," was a mass of ruins, with her hull stranded on West Brighton Beach.

The other boat was also the result of experiments, a magazine of chemicals worked by batteries connected by wires with the steamboat. The inventor, Captain Lovell, superintended its movements; and it literally set the sea ablaze, and about the same moment that the "Maxamillian" stranded, no vestige could be discovered of the ironclad "Santa Anna" but the blackened debris which floated above its watery grave off Manhattan Beach.

After these disasters the remaining Yucatan ships fired but feebly, and soon struck their colors, just as several more of our fleet hailed in sight to witness the closing scenes in this drama of death; but envious and disappointed because they had not been participants in the "*Battle of Coney Island.*"

We pause just here to record the fact that within six months of his victory, Commodore Swank, a brave and good man, was bitterly attacked by wiseacres in Europe,

who denounced his mode of warfare as "brutal, cowardly, and contrary to all precedents."

His answer was: "Gentlemen, you want me to use etiquette in fighting, and do it according to your obsolete rules, and with your antiquated machinery. No sirs, every one of you would use these inventions against Uncle Sam, were you the possessors of them, and we the unhappy recipients of your favors, and in a year or two you will adopt these very instruments of destruction, just as you have previously done with other American inventions.

"If war is right at all, sirs, if civilized and so-called Christian nations have not enough wisdom to settle all differences without recourse to the barbarities of warfare, with all its feints, shams, spies, masked batteries, false lights, ambushes, deceptions and lies generally, then don't condemn me for introducing something new. If Nations must and will go to war, I say, do your worst, and don't fight in kid gloves. Moreover, sirs, because Yankee genius is in advance of you in warlike inventions, don't bring your hypocritical cry against me of 'cowardice and brutality,' but stop your pride and wickedness, and war will cease altogether among civilized people."

CHAPTER XIII.

WHEN the army reached Hoboken Heights the invaders had evacuated New York and Brooklyn, and what remained of them were scattered over Long Island; in fact, being abandoned by their officers, they had been deserting for several days. Some had changed their clothing in the cities, and amalgamated with the foreign element; others had wandered along the roads, Eastward, without aim or purpose, leaving their weapons behind, and upon seeing the fleet destroyed, they gave up in despair.

When our cavalry reached Astoria, and dashed Southward, they could find no enemy but some 5000 half drunken and demoralized Belgians, without officers, who made no resistance, and who were disarmed, and sent as prisoners into a temporary camp. The men were furious against their officers for deceiving them. They all had more or less valuable property about them—diamonds, watches, jewelry and cash—which they reluctantly handed over to the Americans.

Quartered in the magnificent hotels (which had escaped

destruction) on the beaches of Rockaway and Coney Island, we must leave as splendid a body of patriots as ever the sun shone upon, enjoying the sea at the Nation's expense ; and gaily riding in the noble Bay of New York was seen the improvised American Navy, not so formidable as the armaments of Europe, and yet when commanded by skillful officers, and manned by brave, determined men, with secret and scientific appliances, becoming a foe not easy to be beaten, as the late enemy had so bitterly experienced.

In a few days, bridges and railroads were rebuilt and restored, and the leading citizens returned to New York and Brooklyn, after an enforced exile. With usual American energy the sound of the hammer and trowel was immediately heard on every side, where the vandals had destroyed property. Business was also resumed. The banks, newspapers, stores, factories, courts, schools, and offices re-opened ; the ferry-boats, cars and stages were again seen, and part of the usual life and activity began to show itself on Broadway.

But most refreshing was it to see the glorious Stars and Stripes, enshrined afresh in the hearts of the people, floating from mansion and cottage and shipping. The churches which were unharmed also re-opened, and anthems of praise and prayers of thanksgiving ascended to God from thousands of grateful hearts.

Disappointment at the ludicrous ending of the military programme was the ruling passion, and the army, envious at the navy's success, also longed for opportunity to show its prowess. Congress advised, and the Administration consented to send a civil and military expedition to Yucatan, to demand satisfaction and indemnity for the invasion, and give guarantee for the future, three Civil Commissioners having control of the forces.

A part of the army—some 20,000 men—embarked at New York in November, 18—, and being reinforced by several regiments at Mobile, and accompanied by twenty armor plated and other steamers and transports, they safely landed at Sisal in December, and marched for Merida, the Capital.

They found the people half famished; many of the men having been forced to go North with the invading army. Business was entirely prostrated. There was no sign of an army or navy, no National Treasury, and not much of a Government. The Frenchman, who had been elected President by the schemers before they left Yucatan to invade the United States, had recently, with pomp and ceremony, had himself crowned and proclaimed as: "Emperor of Yucatan," and was surrounded with the tinsel and trappings of royalty.

He was arbitrary, selfish and cruel, and when our forces landed, he assumed a regal dignity, and desired in

courtly language, to conduct an extensive diplomatic correspondence. He was blufly advised by Chief Commissioner Weeks to "vacate" within 24 hours, and his Imperial Majesty did not wait for a second hint to retire with his court and crown to parts unknown.

Most of the supplies forwarded by the Government to Yucatan for feeding and clothing our army and navy were gratuitously distributed among the suffering population, who hailed the Americans as friends and deliverers from the tyranny and oppression of the so-called Emperor. And while Congress was debating the question whether we should hold Yucatan as a conquered Territory, or re-annex it to Mexico, the Mother Country, the people of the unfortunate State implored our forces to protect them against the foreigners, who had seized their government, robbed their treasury, destroyed their business, and oppressed them for months.

Then it was that Congress, encouraged by the united voice of the sovereign people, passed Acts which improved and substantially re-affirmed the Monroe doctrine, as construed by leading American Statesmen.

1. *That the American Continents are not henceforth to be considered as subjects for colonization by any Foreign Power.*

2. *That the United States has neither the purpose nor desire to interfere with the internal affairs of any State or*

States in America, nor disturb them in the enjoyment of whatever form of government they might, in the exercise of an absolute freedom, establish.

3. *That the United States, affirming precedents not to interfere with the political affairs of Foreign Nations, nor attempt to enforce Republican institutions upon them, will regard as dangerous to its peace and safety any attempt on their part to extend their systems of Government upon any State or States of North or South America, against the untrammelled votes of a majority of the inhabitants thereof.* •

A Republican form of Government was guaranteed to Yucatan, and the State, by a vote of the citizens, was re-annexed to Mexico. The Mexican Government hypothecated the product of the mahogany forests, and mines of Yucatan to the United States, as indemnity for the damages done and expenses incurred by the invasion.

Our forces then steamed homeward, leaving the American Government to settle with Great Britain several grave questions of international law: it being proved that the enemy procured all their ships, cannon, arms, uniforms, ammunition, etc., in Britain, and further, that the millions of personal property stolen from New York and Brooklyn had been carried to a British port—Nassau.

By an Act of Congress, the last week in March, 18—, was set apart as a time of rejoicing over the proclamation of peace, and arrangements were completed for its civil

and religious observance in all parts of the country. Trade generally was suspended, and a universal holiday was observed, and notwithstanding the severe losses incurred during the invasion, business was so prosperous under the stimulus of Protection to factory and ship, that the people, who were earning handsome profits and wages, could well afford to take time for this National festivity.

Part of the programme was to be a review and parade in New York City. But there were illuminations and rejoicings and patriotic reunions in every corner of the land.

We need not detain our readers to attempt a description of the grandest pageant of modern times—250,000 infantry, 50,000 cavalry and artillerymen, 50,000 sailors and marines, and 50 steel and iron clad war steamers, all armed and equipped for service. There were the stalwarts from Maine, the half-breeds from New Mexico, and men, white and colored, from every section of the Union; and as delegates from each State and Territory marched down Broadway, the people were wild with enthusiasm, especially when the President appeared, who was mounted, and dressed in citizen's attire.

We must refer to several peculiar incidents of this display. After the troops from various States had passed, there appeared a large number of open carriages, filled with wounded, and surrounded by armed soldiers of

varied uniforms, and the cry arose: "Who are these?" The answer came in deafening huzzas for the survivors of that National military excursion party, and of the first army of volunteers who had fought and bled in trying to oppose the victorious march of the invaders in the preceding August on Long Island. Their ancestors had been defeated in opposing the British on the same day of August, and at the same place, over one hundred years before!

Several carriages contained the families of the unfortunate men who had lost their lives in the two sunken war ships, at the beginning of the invasion; also the families of the sailors lost and wounded by the recent Battle of Coney Island, all of whom were now adopted as wards of the Nation. Finally, there was a printing press, worked by electricity, which scattered broadcast an address headed: "America," portraying in eloquent language the glory of our country—the vastness of its domain, the richness of its resources, the sacredness of its Constitution, the breadth of its civil and religious liberty, the grandeur of its institutions, the hopes for its future, the stability of its Government while in the hands of those who were properly nominated and honestly elected. They were urged to remember that their heritage was a moral as well as a political trust; and that great danger would attend any attempt to elevate fealty

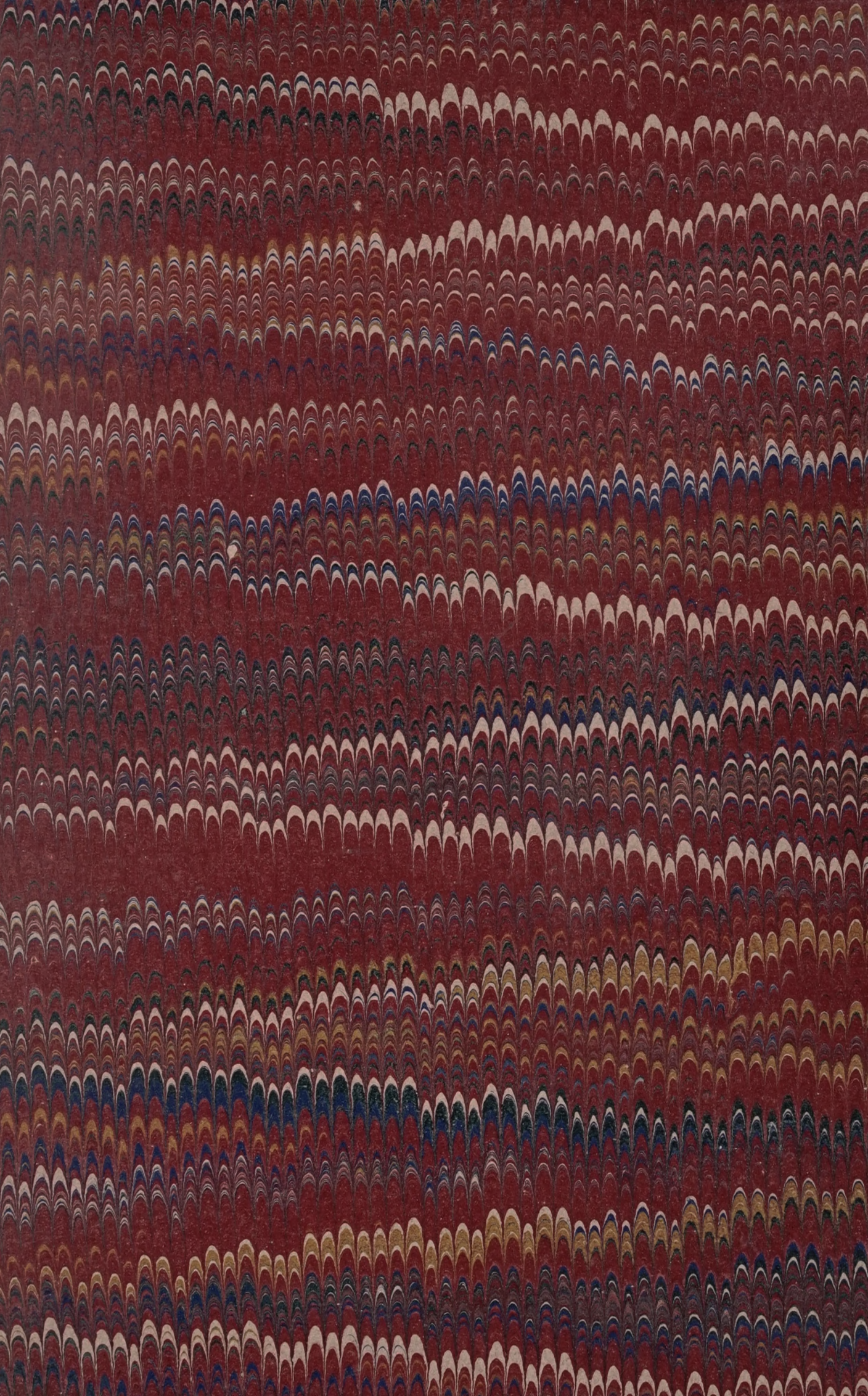
to party above Christian principle in nominating or voting for candidates for office.

It reminded them of the vital importance of maintaining the dignity of labor in liberal wages, by fostering and protecting its agriculture, manufactures and commerce, and thereby insuring National prosperity. It admonished them of the desirability of not permitting foreign nations to dictate a policy of trade to this Nation, nor to force their effete and decaying systems of Government upon any portions of the American Continent, quoting the immortal words of Washington: "Against the insidious wiles of foreign influence, the jealousy of a free people ought to be constantly awake." It solemnly warned them, in Scripture language: that while sin is a reproach to any people, righteousness exalteth a nation.

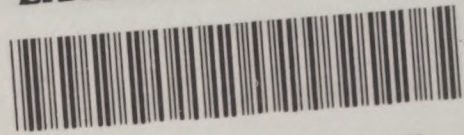
The address ended with the thanks of the President, and of Congress to the people for their patriotic response to the call for help, and with gratitude to Almighty God for enabling them to scatter a dark shadow from the land.

W. B. Cornell





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